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Silence broken on domestic politics

Thatcher tells Tories to keep to Right

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS THATCHER will line up with the Right in the battle for the Conservative Party's future tomorrow with a warning that it cannot win by "lurching to the left".

And she will risk fuelling the feud within the party by declaring that the Tories have not been as true to their principles as they might have been in the past few years.

The warnings will come when Lady Thatcher delivers the Keith Joseph memorial lecture — her first set-piece speech on domestic politics since she was ousted from office more than five years ago.

She will tell an invited audience of 300, including the Cabinet Eurosceptics Michael Portillo and Peter Lilley, that the party must stick to the

radical right-wing agenda she carved out for it with the late Sir Keith in the 1970s.

That, she will say, means holding fast to policies of low taxation, low spending, getting the state off the backs of the people, free markets and expanding consumer choice and opportunity.

But Lady Thatcher will not renew her criticism of John Major, whom she described in her memoirs as "drifting with the tide" and whom she failed to back unequivocally in the leadership contest last summer. Sources close to her said that her speech would be the most supportive of the Prime Minister that she had ever delivered.

Lady Thatcher also denied reports received by *The Times* that she was deeply pessimistic about the Conservatives' chances at the election and that she believed that Tony Blair was almost certain to win. She said: "It is certainly not inevitable that the Labour party will win the next election. In view of the lack of substance of the Leader of the Opposition's recent speeches, I believe that the chances of the Conservative party winning the next election improve by the day."

It is understood that Lady Thatcher will devote a significant part of her speech to an attack on Mr Blair. While she is understood to admire his courage in overhauling his party and reconciling himself and his party to many of her reforms, she will say that a Labour government would be disastrous for the country, pushing up taxes and spending.

Lady Thatcher's speech will come against the background of mounting despair among many ministers and Conservative MPs about their chances of preventing Labour from winning a handsome election victory. But some ministers are still pinning their hopes of a revival on a combination of rising living standards over the next 12 months and "bushy" Mr Blair.

One said yesterday: "The more speeches Mr Blair makes like his stakeholder nonsense in Singapore, the better for us. Once the country sees what he's got in store for them, they will think again. But if he's got any sense he'll keep it vague and rely on warm feelings to waft him into power."

Lady Thatcher has made many speeches overseas to raise funds for her foundation since leaving office and she

has given interviews at home and abroad, but her lecture tomorrow evening will be her first considered attempt to address the future of the party she led for 15 years.

She will do so at a conference organised by the Centre for Policy Studies, the rightwing "think tank" she helped Sir Keith to launch in the 1970s, and her speech will be in honour of the man who was her intellectual mentor.

Besides Mr Portillo and Mr Lilley, the audience will include John Redwood, Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary; the former party chairman Kenneth Baker and Lord Tebbit, and Iain Duncan-Smith, a rising star of the Eurosceptic Right.

Leading businessmen and bankers will also be present. But Mr Major, a patron of the CPS, has not been invited to what is clearly a gathering of the clans of the Tory Right for fear of embarrassing him.

Lady Thatcher was still writing her speech last night, and it was unclear how far she will go in repeating her strongly sceptical views of Europe. Mr Major will hope that she avoids inflaming the debate, which has reached fever pitch since Emma Nicholson defected to the Liberal Democrats declaring that the party was "lurching to the right" and condemning Mr Major's "catastrophic dilly-dallying".

But close confidants of the former Prime Minister said it was inconceivable that she would refrain from spelling out her vehement opposition to a single currency and her backing for a referendum on closer European ties. "From the Government's point of view, it will be a tough one," one insider said.

As recently as last summer in a television interview in Washington, she came out strongly against a single European currency and, in private, she has been expressing dismay about the renewed push towards integration seen at the Madrid summit.

Her speech will certainly be a boost for Mr Portillo, who has complained of a left-wing campaign against him since Miss Nicholson's defection. Yesterday Miss Nicholson renewed her attacks on the Defence Secretary as she prepared to take her seat on the opposition benches for the first time. She called him a cowardly creep and complained that the Tories were being pulled along by "the Portillo gang" who were creating a sect within the party.



Hostages huddle together at the hospital in Kizlyar. The town itself has been sealed off by Russian troops.

Chechen rebels hold 2,000

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA faced a mass hostage crisis yesterday for the second time in seven months after Chechen rebels held some 2,000 people inside a hospital in the North Caucasian town of Kizlyar.

A group led by Salman Raduyev, son-in-law of the rebel Chechen president Dzhokhar Dudayev, shot two hostages and threatened to kill them all if Moscow did not pull its troops out of Chechnya and the rest of the North Caucasus. After night-fall shooting was heard on the streets outside the hospital. Ten civilians, seven policemen and seven Chechen gunmen were reported killed.

Speaking on Russian television, Mr Raduyev, 28, bearded and calling himself the "Lone Wolf", said he and more than 500 other fighters had entered Kizlyar in order to attack a group of military helicopters at the local airfield. "We got held up a little in the town intending to liquidate the military base," Mr Raduyev used to be the mayor of the Chechen town of Gudermes, the site of heavy fighting last month — and the raid may well be a revenge attack.

"We are carrying out orders as soldiers of General Dudayev," he said. "We are ready to carry out any of his orders. Until Russia recognizes Dudayev as the president of Chechnya-Ichkeria, there will be more Budennovsk and Kizlyars."



Raduyev: ready to carry out threats



The hostage seizure is a virtual carbon copy of the attack on the southern Russian town of Budennovsk last June when more than 2,000 hostages were held captive and about 150 people died. Then the gunmen negotiated their own free passage from the town, but this time the Russian Government has sealed off Kizlyar, a town of 40,000, with troops and seems

determined to take a tougher line.

A hoarse and angry President Yeltsin harangued a meeting of his top ministers yesterday and accused them of laxity. In television pictures they sat in silence while he told them that information had come in warning of an impending attack, but it had been ignored.

As at Budennovsk, a group of fighters who are supposedly hemmed in inside the southern mountains of Chechnya had managed to travel across Russian-held territory and pass through dozens of checkpoints.

"It would seem that the power structures, ministries, government and security council and border guards have not drawn any lessons from previous events," Mr Yeltsin said, jabbing his thumb on the table. "To let them travel such a long way when they had prior information about this group! How should we understand you generals?" The President went on: "Are you playing with toys?"

It seems unlikely that Mr Yeltsin, who was away at the G-7 summit during the Budennovsk crisis, will allow the fighters to escape. He is deeply unpopular in the run-up to presidential elections this summer. "If any lesson is to be had from Budennovsk it is that in the end negotiations lead to nothing," said Aleksandr Golts, commentator

with the military newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda*.

No journalists were allowed into Kizlyar last night, suggesting that the army might be preparing for an assault out of view of television cameras.

The Chechen fighters are a daredevil group, who are almost certainly ready to die for their cause. "If the federal forces and the Government of Dagestan want us to destroy this town we can calmly turn it to ashes," said Mr Raduyev.

Millionaire Tory is new BBC chairman

By ALEXANDRA FREAN AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

A CARD-CARRYING Tory millionaire who is a former chairman of London Weekend Television was named yesterday as the new chairman of the BBC.

Sir Christopher Bland replaces Marmaduke Hussey, 72, who has held the job for nine-and-a-half years and is standing down at the end of March, six months before his contract expires.

Sir Christopher, 57, will have the fraught task of maintaining the corporation's impartiality through what is expected to be a bitterly fought general election.

In a foretaste of battles to come, the Labour Party leadership complained last night that it had not been consulted over the appointment of a

Bidding Auntie farewell: Marmaduke Hussey looks back over his ten years as BBC chairman. Page 23

Conservative Party member and former London councillor as chairman of the corporation.

Labour has expressed increasing concern that the BBC's political coverage might be swayed by pressure exerted by senior Tories.

Sir Christopher said last night that he had no intention of renewing his party membership when it expired at the end of March. "My job is to look after the impartiality of the BBC and I can no longer be a member of a political party."

He added: "I had always dreamt of becoming chairman of the BBC, but it is not the kind of job you apply for. My main aim will be to maintain the independence, impartiality and strength of the BBC."

The appointment increases the chance that John Birt, the BBC's Director General and a

Continued on page 2, col 3

Elizabeth's story

THE MOTHER, THE WIFE, THE MONARCH



Starting on Saturday in *The Times*, exclusive serialisation of Elizabeth, an intimate portrait of the Queen at 70 by Sarah Bradford, the acclaimed biographer of George VI

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How a £12,000 casket improved between auctions

By DALNA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

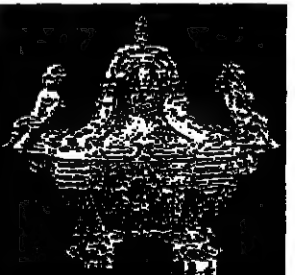
SOTHEBY'S was last night investigating the £105,000 sale of an ornate baroque casket after a number of experts expressed concern that it was a fake. The precious antique, decorated with cherubs and lapis lazuli, was sold by the auction house last December.

Sotheby's catalogue entry described it as shaped like a pentagonal sarcophagus with elaborate scrolling mounts that seem directly influenced by the work of Bernini and his workshop. "The wood carcase [is] veneered with lapis lazuli



The Lovejoy treatment: the casket before and after

and applied with gilt bronze scrolling mounts wrought with swags and garlands heightened with silver bead decoration... the sides of the



lid [are] mounted with a seated silver cherub." However last night some museum experts agreed with the respected *Art Newspaper*

that the casket was the same piece which Christie's sold for £12,000 three years ago — without the cherubs or the lapis lazuli. The 1992 catalogue said that the piece may originally have been embellished with figures and semi-precious stones.

The description compiled by Christie's, which sold the casket to an Italian dealer, noted the inspiration of Bernini and one of his contemporaries, Francesco Borromini: "This baroque casket, with its scalloped pentagonal form, asymmetrically scrolled feet, pilasters and scallop-shell handle-plates, was originally

enhanced by figurative bronzes and jewellery fruit-filled festoons of semi-precious stones or crystals, which were reputedly removed during the Napoleonic invasion."

The Christie's example was an ornate-mounted and gilt-metal casket with a silk covering. Then came the Lovejoy touch — the kind of improvement practised by Jonathan Cash's fictional antiques dealer.

A Sotheby's spokeswoman said: "We have nothing further to add. No money has been paid out. Until it's been examined very carefully, we can't draw any conclusions."

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هكذا من الفصل

WPC denies smuggling gold in £20m VAT swindle

By A STAFF REPORTER

A POLICEWOMAN confessed to her boyfriend that she was part of a £20 million gold smuggling operation, a court was told yesterday. She was also said in a letter to him to have described one of her trips to Belgium, where the bullion was bought, as providing a "little extra cash" and a "change from my normal, tedious routine".

WPC Lucy Gilmore, 25, of Bridgnorth, Shropshire, who was stationed at Telford at the time, is said to have made at least four cross-Channel trips to smuggle in gold. She denies conspiracy to cheat by evading the Value Added Tax due on the bullion.

In the dock with her at Knightsbridge Crown Court is Surinder Kumar, 32, of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, who is alleged to have been a "prolific courier" during the 18-month operation. He also denies the charge.

Peter Rook, QC, for the prosecution, said Gilmore's father Michael, 53, of Crathie, Grampian, who has admitted his part in the swindle, was one of a number of couriers who made some 24 cross-Channel smuggling trips. On

four occasions he was accompanied by his daughter.

Mr. Rook said Miss Gilmore's former boyfriend, Robert Davis, would tell the court she travelled to Belgium with her father as often as every other weekend. When he tackled her about the trips, she allegedly told him the "real reason" was to smuggle gold from Europe into Britain.

Mr Rook claimed Miss Gilmore also told Mr Davis how on one occasion she carried some "small" 24-carat, 1kg bars from a building to her father's car and then wrapped them in black tape to help to conceal them.

Referring to a letter she wrote to Mr Davis in which she mentioned being paid, Mr Rook asked: "Why would Lucy Gilmore be receiving a little extra cash for going on a trip with her father? The prosecution suggest that was a reward for her services. No doubt Gilmore going with his daughter, her presence helped provide cover for what was effectively a smuggling trip."

He said the bullion was concealed in cars and never declared to Customs and Excise for VAT purposes. It was then sold on, the profit coming from new owners who paid VAT at 17.5 per cent against the 1 per cent VAT rate in Belgium.

Mr Rook told the court that when arrested in August 1994, Miss Gilmore denied any involvement with smuggling. When Mr Kumar was detained, he also denied any involvement and "effectively claimed he was being set up", probably by his brother Jagan Kanda, who Mr Rook said was "the moving spirit behind this fraud". Mr Kanda was now somewhere abroad.

Mr Rook added that forensic examination of the vehicles used revealed traces of "high purity" gold in "natural spaces" behind glove compartments and under rear seats. The trial continues.



Gilmore: accused of conspiracy to cheat

Hedgerows mysteriously blossom with home-made sculptures



Signposts to the past, left, direct bemused visitors past bizarre creations to solo performers such as "Loo-lu" and Elton John, above, and down memory lane, right

Village wits pay tribute to rock's golden oldies

By BILL FROST

A MYSTERIOUS bout of nostalgia for fading and forgotten pop icons has gripped a hamlet nestled deep in the shires and transformed it into a place of pilgrimage.

Every day since the middle of last month new tributes to old heroes have appeared on verges and in hedgerows beside the road through Preston on Wye (population 250), Hereford and Worcester.

The unknown artists have paid homage to the past with, among other items, a broken lavatory, rubber boots, traffic cones and the lower half of a tailor's dummy.

Tony Dale, a farmer, inadvertently launched the craze with a makeshift sign at the roadside warning drivers against "Mud". Hours later another appeared reading "Showaddywaddy", arch chart rivals to the former group Mud in the Seventies.

By the following week more than 30 home-made signs and tributes had sprouted. A pair of denim jeans were left hanging from an oak tree with a placard



Drivers from surrounding towns crawl through picturesque Preston on Wye to see the latest pop creations

saying "Swinging Blue Jeans". A pile of sand was dumped at the roadside, along with some driftwood and pebbles, and labelled "Sandy Shore" — a fair approximation to Sandie Shaw.

The trunk and legs of a tailor's dummy wearing knickers and a pair of Wellingtons stand provocatively on a verge. The sculpture is titled "Nancy Sinatra", who

30 years ago had a No 1 hit with *These Boots Are Made For Walking*.

Elsewhere on the mile-long stretch of road, a lavatory has been left with "Loo-lu" painted in large letters around the outside of the bowl. A sign pointing to swedes growing in a field says simply: "Abba (Swedes)".

Almost as wittily, the latest sign to appear greets motorists with the words "ELO

and welcome to Preston". Another recent tribute features two traffic cones nailed to a board bearing the name "Madonna".

There are now more than 60 signs in the village. Other rock dinosaurs recalled include Chicken Shack, Amen Corner and The Hollies. A rain-filled pothole in the road is identified as "Muddy Waters", a wooden saw has been tied to a stake with the words

"The Carpenters" and an old car door has been brightly painted in honour of the Sixties rock band The Doors.

The decorated "Loo-lu" lavatory has been given an additional interpretation: a dummy perched on accompanied by a large sign decorated with garish sunglasses and the legend "Elton (on the John)".

Mike Smith, a builder, said that almost every morning

villagers woke to new signs and artefacts. "Everybody is trying to find the culprit, but so far there is no one to pin the blame on," he said.

"Some people have said it's dangerous because motorists are slowing down to read the signs, but this is the best traffic-calming measure Preston has ever had. Cars haven't driven through the village this slowly for years."

Mr Smith said that news of the roadside hall of fame had spread far and wide. "People have been turning up from Ewyas Harold, 15 miles away, just to see the signs. Others have been coming from much further off."

Some in Preston detect the hand of Harry Hancox, a retired BT engineer, in the affair. The 64-year-old councillor yesterday denied responsibility. "It's just gone crazy and there are a lot of suspects," he said. "You can see little groups huddling together in the pub, having a giggle."

"I suspect the last act will be made by the police or the highway authority... ordering The Move."

Protest at quashing of drink-drive sentence

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

MAGISTRATES and court clerks protested yesterday at a ruling by the Court of Appeal that quashed a prison sentence imposed on a drink-driver who was four times over the limit. Road safety campaigners said the judgment could lead to drivers who were well above the legal limit avoiding imprisonment.

Their objection came after Mr Justice Sachs described a two-month sentence given to Arthur Cook, a Royal Mail van driver, as "utterly inappropriate" and added: "It can never be appropriate to send a man for this criminality, at the lower end of the scale as it is, to prison."

Mr Justice Sachs, the first High Court judge appointed from outside the ranks of the Bar, said: "There are other perfectly appropriate ways of dealing with people who drive with excess alcohol."

Cook, 37, from Yardley, Birmingham, was sentenced at the city's Crown Court last

July after his MG Metro car collided with a BMW. He was also banned from driving for four years after he admitted driving with 140 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35mcg.

The Court of Appeal replaced the jail term with a £500 fine, reduced the disqualification to two years, and removed a requirement that he take a driving test.

Mr Justice Sachs described Cook as a man of "impeccable character" with no previous convictions. He had been traumatised by the accident, had sold his car and joined a group specialising in alcohol abuse.

Magistrates and justices' clerks said that the lower courts would be bound to comply with the principles of the judgment. Although the ruling is not binding, the Magistrates' Association expressed concern that it would influence sentencing towards non-custodial punishment for serious drink-drive offences.

Rosemary Thomson, chair-

man of the Magistrates' Association, said: "We are very concerned. Magistrates remain convinced that in a good many cases where there is a very high reading, imprisonment is an appropriate disposal."

Roger Seymour, chairman of the road traffic committee of the Justices' Clerks' Society, said the implications of the case were potentially serious. He said that if the magistrates and crown courts failed to take the precedent on board, their decision would be open to challenge in the appeal courts.

The maximum penalty for driving with excess alcohol is six months imprisonment and/or a £5,000 fine, with obligatory disqualification. Imprisonment is usually reserved for drivers who are found to be substantially over the limit.

Under sentencing guidelines issued to magistrates, imprisonment should be considered after a breath specimen reading of 108.5 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood.

Race abuse boy ran into path of car

By JOANNA BAILE

A BLACK teenager who attended the west London school whose headmaster was murdered last month died after being hit by a car as he and five friends ran away from three white men who were shouting racial abuse and chasing them, an inquest was told yesterday.

Liam Harrison, 14, of Ladbroke Grove, was on his way home from St George's Roman Catholic School in Maida Vale with a group of friends when the tragedy happened. The boys were confronted by three drunken white men who had been loitering outside.

The men started racially abusing them and one pulled off his belt. When they began to chase the boys, Liam ran into the road and was knocked over by a Jaguar driven by Paul Davies of Ruislip, northwest London, who has since died of a heart attack. A verdict of accidental death was recorded at the inquest in Westminster.

Princess reduced to tears by jeering photographers blocking escape

By EMMA WILKINS

THE Princess of Wales broke down in tears after being pursued down a London street by a group of photographers. A hard core of British paparazzi shouted and jeered as the Princess left the house of Susie Orbach, her friend and psychotherapist, in Swiss Cottage, north London, on Monday night.

Half a dozen photographers tried to prevent the Princess from opening her car door and swore at her when she refused to pose for a photograph. She broke down in tears of frustration when she could not escape.

A photograph of the distressed Princess was used on the front of yesterday's *Daily Mirror* which attributed her distress to worries about her possible divorce. However, it has become clear that the

Princess was upset because she felt threatened by the all-male group. Despite the occasional brush with photographers, the Princess remains reluctant to ask for help from police protection officers that she dispensed with after her separation from the Prince of Wales in 1992.

A posse of photographers is often to be found outside the gates of Kensington Palace waiting for the Princess to leave. They cover the three exits and keep in contact by mobile telephone.

Photographers who specialise in shots of the Princess are all familiar with her routine, which includes regular trips to the gym at Chelsea Harbour Club, Ms Orbach's home and the Bimal Sports Clinic in Hammer-smith, west London. Photographs of the Princess can fetch thousands of pounds,

especially if they show her doing something out-of-the-ordinary — such as breaking down in tears.

During the Prince of Wales's skiing holiday in Klosters last week, photographs of Prince Harry falling over were being offered to newspapers for £5,000 each. With five national British tabloids, an organised photographer could expect to make at least £25,000 from the click of the shutter.

If British newspapers are unwilling to publish intrusive photographs, there is a lucrative market among European magazines. But staff of a Japanese film company who chased the Princess down the same street outside Ms Orbach's house last week have denied being intrusive. A spokesman for Asahi TV said: "We are not part of the paparazzi, we gather serious

news. We were outside the house when the Princess walked past — it was a fluke, we thought she was in the Caribbean. We just wanted to wish her Happy New Year. Intrusion is something that no one wants to be guilty of, but it's a fine line."

NHK TV, the Japanese network which is the equivalent of the BBC, said it would not "doorstep" the Princess. "We do not go in for the tabloid type of television that some do. We thought chasing the Princess down the street was a bit outrageous," said Yoko Sageman, an NHK TV spokeswoman.

Buckingham Palace said there was little it could do to prevent the Princess being pursued. A spokesman said: "It was quite a threatening incident because the Princess was alone and it was at night."

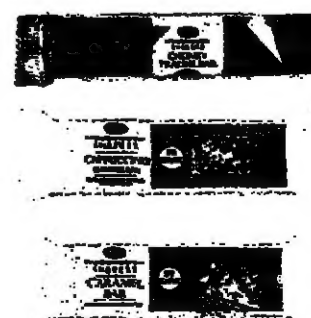
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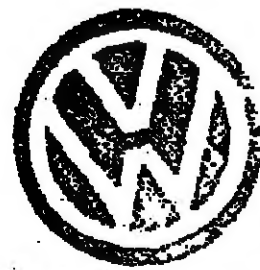
I thought I meant a lot more to him than that. How could he be so cheap?

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SMALLBONE

'They took us by surprise,' admit police as campaigners mount blockade

Bypass protesters claim early win in battle of Newbury

By Adrian Lee

PREPARATION work for the Newbury bypass was abandoned for the day yesterday after protesters blocked 400 security guards into their farmyard base.

Anti-road protesters were claiming first blood in the battle over the bypass after they defied police for more than eight hours by blocking the two routes for coaches carrying guards to the site. Work had been due to start early yesterday on clearance work for the £100 million road. Thames Valley Police and Reliance Security, which was to oversee the start of clearance work along the 8.2-mile route, admitted they were taken by surprise.

Campaigners from the Third Battle of Newbury group struck at 5.30am yesterday, lying in wait outside a remote 2,000 farm at Sulhamstead Abbots, Berkshire, where the guards had been billeted. It belongs to Richard Benyon, who will fight the Newbury seat at the next election for the Conservatives. As coaches arrived at dawn to take the guards the 14 miles to Newbury, the protesters blocked both ends of the narrow lane with tripods made from scaffold poles and rope. Three activists, Simon, Rowan and Dug, climbed the

20ft to the top of the tripods and perched there until 1.30pm when the protest was called off to allow an ambulance to reach two security guards. One had suffered a back injury, the other a suspected epileptic fit. By then the Highways Agency, part of the Department of Transport, had called off work for the day.

Police had eventually formed cordons around the two tripods at noon, warning the three campaigners that if they did not come down within a "reasonable period", they risked arrest for obstructing the highway. But officers were forced to hold back for fear of injuring the three men.

Ian Blair, the Assistant Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, said police would not take sides in the dispute, but branded protesters "selfish". Operation Prospect, which will cost police up to £35,000 a week, is expected to go on for the 2½ years it will take to complete the £100 million project. Mr Blair said this use of manpower would have a knock-on effect on policing elsewhere.

The demonstrators were bullish. "They are going to have it so hard here," said Chalkie, a veteran of several anti-road protests. Reliance Security has also worked on

other road schemes and the two sides know one another well.

Torn Riall, area manager for Reliance, said: "They have taken us by surprise this morning but the guys are all resigned to things like this happening. We actually enjoy quite a good relationship with the protesters."

The three demonstrators on the tripods were cheered on by about 35 supporters, who toasted their success with soya milk. One campaigner found the time to rescue a worm, in danger of drowning on the muddy country road. Others handed round a collection bucket or sold oranges to raise funds.

Andy Drury, a legal observer for the campaign, claimed a local farmer had threatened to shoot protesters and stampede his cows through their ranks.

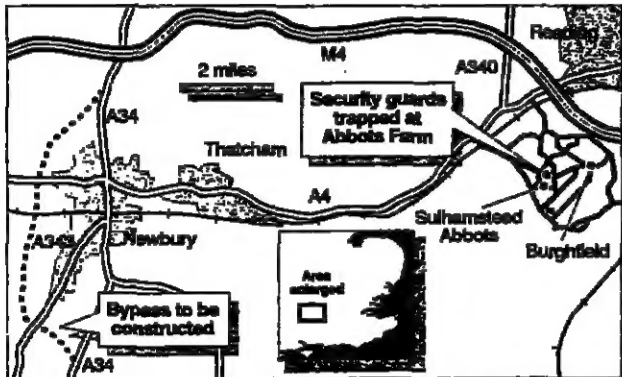
David Rendel, the Liberal Democrat MP for Newbury, arrived to put the case for the bypass and was confronted by demonstrators. "If this causes significant delay that is a pity. If these people would just go away it would save the taxpayer a lot of money," he said.

"The people of Newbury know what the problems of the current road are and that is why they strongly support the bypass scheme. It undoubtedly will do some environmental damage to the land to the west of Newbury, but that has to be balanced with the huge pollution problems that the current road is causing in Newbury."

One of those who argued with the MP was George Monbiot, a former water keeper on the Sutton Estate. The bypass will cut through part of a water meadow that is a site of special scientific interest. Mr Monbiot told Mr Rendel: "You are delivering an abomination."

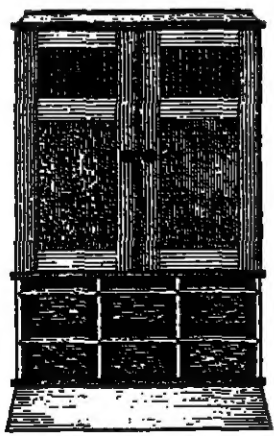


David Rendel, MP, left, arguing with George Monbiot about the impact of the bypass on the environment



Guards from Reliance Security, old foes of the protesters, trapped in their base

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Pen could help trap Celine's murderer

By Richard Duce

POLICE investigating the murder of the French student Celine Figard released details yesterday of a black and gold fountain pen she was carrying. It was given to her by a newspaper in Ferrières, Haute-Saône, where she worked as a delivery girl.

Detective Chief Superintendent John McCammon, head of West Mercia CID, said that the pen bore the name of the newspaper, *L'Est Républicain*, in black lettering. He said: "This pen is most distinctive and if anybody has come across one like this during the past three weeks there is every chance that it once belonged to Celine."

Detectives have already said that Mlle Figard, 19, travelled over from France before Christmas with an unusual bottle of champagne which is still missing. Her body was found in woodland near a layby outside Worcester, ten days after she accepted a lift on December 19 from a lorry driver at Chieveley service station on the M4.

Police are also trying to trace French accountancy textbooks Mlle Figard was carrying: *Comptabilité Générale*, *Maths Analytique*, *Maths Statistiques* and *Economie Générale*.

The strongest lead remains the description of the lorry, a white Mercedes, and its driver, a white man in his late thirties with cropped fair or ginger hair. Police are working through a list of owners of 1,200 such vehicles registered in Britain.

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Police chiefs discuss plans for national crime-busting team after Moss Side attacks

Gang fired 27 shots at man saved by body suit



Supt King: appealed for wider powers to seize profits

By KATE ALDERSON
AND STEWART TENDLER

POLICE chiefs will discuss proposals for a national gang-busting team with a budget of £100 million a year and 2,000 staff today as Manchester police investigate the latest attack in urban gang war.

Moss Side detectives disclosed that 27 shots had been fired at a man who was saved by his body armour in a street attack. Officers investigating two shootings over the last ten days in Moss Side have spoken of the dangers posed by the eruption of renewed gang warfare and "tit for tat" violence.

Today's special conference of chief constables looking at Home Office proposals for tackling organised

crime has taken on renewed urgency since the end of the two-year truce called by Moss Side gangs. On December 30 Raymond Pitt was shot dead at point-blank range. His driver, Marlon Basima, 17, was wounded in the leg and is now in hiding. Darrell Laycock, 22, and Owen Roche, 23, were questioned about the killing. Roche was charged with murder but Mr Laycock was released without charge. Three days ago Mr Laycock, who was wearing a flak jacket, and a woman friend, were attacked in Moss Side by three men who fired 27 shots. Both are stable and in hospital under armed guard.

After the attack on Mr Laycock Det Spt Alan Boardman, head of Manchester south CID, said: "How

many children and innocent people were put at risk in that incident? We don't know and certainly the gunman did not know."

Superintendent Lilian King, head of community policing in Moss Side, said: "People are killing and dying for money and status. They are putting those two things above life." She criticised drug dealers for using children to carry out their "dirty work" and told of a 13-year-old boy who was stopped by police and found with £1,100 in his pocket.

Supt King said dealers knew that children were less likely to be stopped by police and once youngsters were involved in the crime culture it was difficult for them to escape it. Teenagers were lured by the trappings of "wealth", she said,

and called for even greater powers to confiscate goods bought with the proceeds of crime. "It is a perpetual and very lucrative industry. When we take out the top guys, as we have done successfully in the past, they are replaced within weeks. We can win. We have more effective policing and interaction with the community but the police need to be able to seize assets like fancy cars, gold and other vulgarities of wealth."

"We do that now but we need to be able to seize the profits with less burden of proof than is currently necessary." Under the Proceeds of Crime Act introduced last November, courts were given extended powers to confiscate profits from serious crime by persistent offenders. The recent spate of shootings is

the first to be linked to the drugs world since a shooting incident in January 1994. Police pointed out that crime and firearms incidents had decreased in Moss Side during the past two years and last year there were 33 shooting incidents compared with more than 110 at the height of the drug disputes in 1992.

Under the Home Office plan, up to 1,450 detectives currently working for the six regional crime squads would merge with 500 officers and analysts at the National Criminal Intelligence Service to form one department. A national director general, possibly a senior chief constable or Scotland Yard commander, would be in charge with a director of operations and a director of intelligence below him.

Sams to be charged over jail assault

Michael Sams, sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Julie Dart and the kidnap of the estate agent Stephanie Slater, is to be charged with the attempted murder of a probation officer inside Wakefield jail last year.

Sams allegedly attacked Julia Flack during a surgery she was holding for prisoners in her office in the prison last October. Mrs Flack, 49, the wife of the Archdeacon of Pontefract, the Venerable John Flack, and the mother of two children, suffered minor neck injuries.

Advert falls flat

The Advertising Standards Authority criticised a poster for a Berlei sports bra which suggested it prevented drooping breasts, as there was insufficient evidence. Complaints were rejected that the advert, which had a skipping rope in the shape of sagging breasts, was offensive.

Bogus Ecstasy

Police in Birmingham have seized 2,000 bogus Ecstasy tablets that they say could kill drug users. The tablets, worth £30,000 and imprinted with a question mark, contain stimulants and anaesthetics. Police have charged a man and say pushers might be selling similar tablets as Ecstasy.

Dolphins killed

Eleven dead dolphins have been washed up along the south coast of Cornwall in the past nine days. Post-mortem examinations suggest that the mammals, which need to surface periodically to breathe, might have drowned when they became entangled in trawlermen's nets.

Parkhurst case

Three prisoners were committed for trial accused of breaking out of Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight last year. Keith Rose, 45, Andrew Rodger, 44, and Matthew Williams, 25, who are all serving life sentences, were handcuffed to prison officers in the dock at Portsmouth Crown Court.

Aerosol victim

Lisa Watkins, 14, collapsed and died after inhaling fumes from an air freshener while awaiting a performance of *Educating Rita*, in which her friend's father was starring. A verdict of death through non-dependent use of drugs was recorded at an inquest on Miss Watkins, of Bristol.

Clearing the air

A murder trial at the Old Bailey was halted temporarily by a dispute over smoking. Judge Coombe, who mediated after a juror objected to others smoking while considering their verdict, ruled that brief cigarette breaks would be allowed outside if supervised by a court usher.

Meningitis death

Gill Eyre, 30, a detective constable with the Northumbria Police, has become the seventh victim of the outbreak of meningitis in northeast England, a day after she was admitted to hospital. Her husband Tom is under observation as a suspected case.

Record 250 consultants top £100,000 in the NHS

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 250 hospital consultants have broken through the £100,000-a-year pay barrier in the NHS. They are leaders in their fields who have been awarded the top A-plus merit award, taking their NHS salaries to £102,240 before private earnings.

They are being joined at the top of the pay league by specialists who are in short supply and who are demanding six-figure salaries from NHS trusts desperate to recruit them. One NHS trust disclosed yesterday that it is paying ten consultants up to £20,000 above the NHS maximum in response to the shortages. Another said it had flown short-listed candidates from South Africa with all expenses paid.

Doncaster Healthcare NHS Trust, which provides care for the mentally ill and handicapped, is advertising for an additional psychiatrist in the current issue of the *British Medical Journal* offering "significantly enhanced remuneration of circa £60-£70K" to the right applicant. The current maximum of the NHS pay scale, without a merit award, is £52,440.

Liam Hayes, chief executive, said ten psychiatrists at the trust were on the same pay rates. "We have had major challenges in recruiting consultants over the past three years. What we have done is wrap up all the little extras that consultants can earn and lumped that into a new package related to performance."

The Times disclosed on Tuesday that Hartlepool and Peterlee Hospitals NHS Trust had spent £1,700 importing a retortainer belonging to a consultant anaesthetist recruited from America as part of his employment package.

Brian Hanson, chairman of the trust, yesterday defended the package provided for Dr Craig Baldwin from Denver. "We are not unique in what we did. It is a common problem nationwide that hospitals have in getting suitably qualified staff," he said.

"Some trusts have hired

consultants at double the going rate for about £100,000. We avoided doing that and we believe this one-off payment was money well spent. If there were enough well-qualified consultants we would not have this problem."

The national shortage of consultants, which has worsened sharply after the reduction in junior doctors' hours over the past three years, has forced many trusts to seek recruits abroad. Northallerton Health Services NHS Trust in North Yorkshire, which has recruited six consultants in South Africa, provided all expenses paid trips to Britain for short-listed candidates.

A manager from another trust said: "They were given really plush treatment to encourage them to stay. The trust would say it was very cost effective."

Calderdale Healthcare NHS Trust in Halifax is advertising for consultants in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand and offering up to £8,000 in relocation expenses. It is also looking at the tax position of overseas recruits on temporary contracts.

The chief executive of an NHS trust in the South said: "I have heard of registrars newly appointed as consultants in the most keenly sought after specialties coming in on three-year contracts for a lump sum of £250,000. These are specialists such as intensivists - anaesthetists in intensive care - who are in very, very short supply."

A personnel manager at a trust in the North said: "We will do whatever the consultants want to get them. It is incredibly unsatisfactory but there is nothing else we can do. If you have got a theatre list full, the surgeon waiting to operate and no anaesthetist, what's the point? You're stymied. It's a buyer's market."

The National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts said the new arrangements were proof of the value of local pay but trusts needed to guard against pay spirals or high turnover rates.



British entries: a 1926 Bugatti Type 40, 1929 Bentley 4.5 litre and 1932 Aston Martin, with the 1925 Lanchester hidden behind the Bentley

Vintage cars roll back the years to repeat pioneers' rally

A THREE-TON 1925 Lanchester will be among British entries in a re-enactment of the world's first motor rally, from Peking to Paris in 1907. The 6.25-litre car will join 99 other vintage and classic models for the

event in September 1997. The Lanchester will be driven by its owners, Peter and Sue Noble of Loughton, Essex, on a 10,000-mile route climbing to 17,000ft in the Himalayas and crossing desert. The

oldest car will be a 1914 Prince Henry Vauxhall driven by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu. The 40-day rally will take drivers from more than 20 countries across China, Tibet, Nepal, northern

Greece, Italy and Germany. Only five cars took part in the original rally and one broke down in the Gobi desert. The first to finish, after 60 days, was a seven-litre Itala driven by Prince Scipione Borghese of Italy.



View in the Corrie Bute, signed Victoria R. 1848

Victoria's Balmoral view goes on show

A LANDSCAPE painting by Queen Victoria went on general view for the first time yesterday in an exhibition of watercolours from Harewood House, near Leeds (John Shaw writes).

It showed a view near Balmoral and was copied from an original by Lady Charlotte Canning, one of her ladies-in-waiting, which is now in the Royal Collec-

Death-crash Chinook was new to Northern Ireland

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

AN RAF helicopter that crashed into the Mull of Kintyre with the loss of 29 lives was the first of its type in Northern Ireland and had arrived only two days previously, an inquiry was told yesterday.

So new was the Mark 2 Chinook that an airman who flew as a passenger on the day of the crash noticed the crew carried out routine checks slowly.

The fatal accident inquiry was also told that villagers in Northern Ireland remarked on the Chinook's low altitude as it set off on the journey to Scotland with 25 anti-terrorist experts on board.

The four RAF crew killed in the crash on June 2, 1994, had flown the Chinook on routine trips in Northern Ireland earlier that day. Their first trip was a 20-minute journey from their base, Aldergrove, to

Ballykinkar army base to drop off John Coles, then an air loadmaster-crewman.

Mr Coles travelled as a passenger, but because he was serving with the RAF also took part in routine checks in which instructions read from reference cards had to be acknowledged.

The crew had experience of Mark 2 Chinooks. Mr Coles said, but he was more familiar because he had returned to Northern Ireland from RAF Odiham, the UK base for Chinooks, later than they had. "The checks were carried out slowly. It was very obvious the pilots were perhaps not as familiar with the [reference] cards and had not seen the aircraft for some two months," he said.

The crew collected Mr Coles later after carrying out routine troop-ferrying trips. He said

they were late because an engineer had had to check a problem with a temperature gauge that had returned.

Anne Tyler, 40, from Carnlough, Co. Antrim, told the inquiry how she had seen the twin-rotor helicopter flying low with a curious noise. It was so low that she could see trees on the far side of the glen, above the level of the helicopter. "It was a very loud noise," she said. "There was something strange about it. It wasn't a familiar noise. I had a gut feeling there was something about that noise."

Ms Tyler had spoken to villagers who told her the helicopter had skimmed rooftops. "As it went over the sea, one person actually said it was skimming the waves," she said.

The inquiry, at Paisley, Strathclyde, continues today.



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Zoo fears massive aquarium will force it to close

By MICHAEL HORNSEY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to build Britain's biggest aquarium are in jeopardy because of a legal dispute with a nearby zoo. The 60-year-old Chester Zoo, praised for its conservation of endangered animals, says the competition could force it to close.

Deep Sea World, which opened its first aquarium three years ago at North Queensferry, Fife, has applied for a European Union grant of £3.1 million to help with the £11 million cost of building the new centre at Ellesmere Port, starting in June.

The zoo is challenging the legality of the scheme under European Regional Development Fund guidelines. These state that any grant-aided projects must "complement and not displace existing attractions".

Unveiling detailed plans for the aquarium yesterday, Phil Crane, chief executive of Deep Sea World, said: "I see us as complementing the zoo. They show terrestrial animals at their best and we show marine animals at their best."

Gordon McGregor Reid, director of Chester Zoo, said: "It is obvious that another aquarium and tropical house less than five miles away will have an adverse effect on our income and on our ability to support the vital conservation work we are doing."

The zoo houses 5,000 animals representing 500 species, of which 204 are considered to be globally endangered, among them Asian elephants, Siberian tigers, orang-utans, and black rhinos. It also has its own aquarium.

The new centre, which will house up to 5,000 fish and invertebrates, is part of a wider scheme to revive the local economy, and Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council has fought hard to persuade Deep Sea World to build it at the Cheshire Oaks site in Ellesmere Port.

The final decision on whether to approve Deep Sea World's grant application rests with the Government Office for the North West.

Britain's oldest takeaway is enlisted to cull predator taking over canals



Face to face with the enemy: Steve Griffiths of British Waterways with a zander. The East European fish was introduced to Britain in 1878 by the Duke of Bedford

Chips are down for a fish called zander

By ROBIN YOUNG

ZANDER, a fish terrorising canals as a voracious predator, may shortly meet its match in a plate of chips.

Zander (*Stizostedion lucoperca*) are established in 100 miles of canals in the Midlands and are poised to spread through the inland waterway network from Liverpool to London. British Waterways, which runs the canals, wants rid of them because they wipe out other varieties that coarse anglers love to pursue.

Yesterday British Waterways suggested that the answer could be to make zander a tasty alternative to cod in the nation's favourite takeaway. Zander, which originated in Eastern Europe, are also known as pikeperch because they have the large, spiny dorsal fin of the perch and the streamlined body and greedy appetite of the pike.

They are counted a delicacy on the Continent. In Alsace a gastronomic route is dedicated to them, mapping inns and restaurants where they can be enjoyed deep fried. In Germany, John Major was served Helmut Kohl's recipe for zander with sauerkraut at their meeting in September. Yet one can trawl British fish

RECIPE

Sylvan Ho Wing Choeng suggests zander with crispy cabbage and ginger in a lemon grass sauce. 3lb zander fillet, 300g olive oil, 6oz butter, 1 chopped savoy cabbage, 1 fresh ginger, 2 sticks lemon grass, 1lb oz fish stock, 1/2 fl oz white wine, 2 shallots, 2oz double cream. Marinate fish in oil and lemon juice for two hours. Put 2oz butter in a saucepan, add 2 finely chopped shallots. Sweat on low heat, add wine, stock and lemon grass. Reduce by a third, add cream and remaining butter and whisk. Grill fish for five minutes. Deep fry cabbage with ginger. Serve the fish on cabbage, pour sauce around the fish.

cooking books without finding zander mentioned once. In this country they are known almost only to anglers who, after catching specimens up to half a metre long, return them to the water.

Zander first came to Britain in 1878 when the Duke of Bedford put a collection into three lakes at Woburn Abbey as a curiosity. In the 1960s stock from Woburn was ex-

perimentally released in the Great Ouse and the population exploded through the Fens, devastating roach and bream.

Culling failed to control the zander, partly because coarse anglers were loath to kill their catches and preferred to release them, often into canals.

"We know we are on a loser," Jonathan Briggs, British Waterways' conservation ecologist, said yesterday. "They are spreading inexorably through the canal system."

"A single mother can lay 200,000 eggs, so they breed fast. Water that might contain one pike can have as many as 50 or 60 zander, and they eat whole generations of smaller fish."

Such zander as are eaten in Britain, mostly at Japanese restaurants, are imported from The Netherlands. Simon Newnes, the only Billingsgate wholesaler to deal in them, said yesterday: "We have had occasional zander from King's Lynn, including one that weighed 21lb, but we cannot get enough. They wholesale at £3.50 to £4 a lb, the same price as sea bass, but in England anglers just chuck them away."

Zander were on the menu at Rule's restaurant in London 18

months ago and have sometimes been sold at Harrods, but price and unfamiliarity have prevented them becoming popular.

Yesterday Sylvan Ho Wing Choeng, a Mauritian-born chef who owns three London fish restaurants, cooked zander three ways to show its potential: battered with chips, in white wine sauce and with crispy cabbage and ginger

THE BRITISH DISH



our population and famine and revolt."

In the 1930s there were 30,000 fish and chip shops in Britain but the Sea Fish Industry Authority says that the number has declined to 8,000, with 1,500 closing in the past three years. In the

South of England the fish of choice is traditionally cod and in the North haddock, but many fryers also offer other varieties such as rock, plaice and skate. More still have diversified into chicken portions, battered sausages, Chinese spring rolls and even the ubiquitous burger, an arch-rival to the traditional dish.

Richard Taylor, a director of Harry Ramsden's, the international fish and chip shop chain, said yesterday: "I had not heard of a fish called zander. It will have to be pretty good if you want a Yorkshireman to give up his haddock and eat something else."

will include price, twice that of cod, and the small rows of bones which Mr Sylvan removes with eyebrow tweezers. "We have to find some way of marketing zander," Steve Griffiths, fisheries manager for British Waterways' North West region, said. "Otherwise they are going to overrun the system."

Leading article, page 17

Doctors link lifestyle to onset of Alzheimer's

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SMOKING and drinking may hasten the onset of Alzheimer's disease in some patients, doctors have suggested. But taking more than three drinks a day may delay onset in people who have a family history of the condition.

The conclusions come from a study of 829 Alzheimer's patients in the United States, Canada and Germany by a team led by Dr Lindsay Farrer of the neurology department at Boston University School of Medicine.

The researchers suggest that the mechanisms leading to the onset of symptoms differ among individuals according to whether they have a genetic predisposition to Alzheimer's.

Smokers get the disease sooner, whether or not they have the predisposing genes, the doctors say. There is also

earlier onset in patients with a history of depression, but arthritis and high blood pressure seem to delay the disease. In the case of arthritis, this may be connected with the treatment, as several studies have shown that non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as aspirin or ibuprofen delay Alzheimer's.

Heavy smokers who drink get the disease earlier if they do not have the Alzheimer's genes. But non-smokers with the genes can apparently delay onset by more than three years if they have at least three alcoholic drinks a day.

Dr Farrer said the results were preliminary, and needed to be substantiated by comparison with people who do not have the disease.

Dr Sarah-Jane Richards of the Alzheimer's Research

Trust, whose journal *Alzheimer's Research* publishes the study today, said: "This is the first time that environmental factors and lifestyle have been explored in relation to Alzheimer's."

"One of the mysteries of the disease is why one person gets it and another doesn't. Even though genetic factors are quite important, in the majority of cases Alzheimer's is not inherited."

"If it can be demonstrated that lifestyle does affect how early you get Alzheimer's disease then this is something that the individual might be able to control."

The age at onset varied widely in the group, with the youngest patients showing symptoms at 35, and the oldest at 90. The average was just over 70.

Footballer killed by poison gas

THE deaths of a professional footballer and his female companion whose bodies were found at a farm cottage appear to have been a tragic accident, police said yesterday. Post-mortem examinations on Norrie McCathie, 34, and Amanda Burns, 26, a hairdresser, showed that both had died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Gas officials are examining the central heating system in the cottage on the outskirts of Dunfermline, Fife, which was owned by Mr McCathie and which he was renovating.

Mr McCathie, 34, captain of Dunfermline Athletic, and Miss Burns, 26, from Dunfermline, were in the bedroom when friends called at the house on Monday. The footballer was on the floor and Miss Burns was in bed. Mr McCathie's dog was found unharmed.

Clue to whodunnit in the library

LORD PETER WIMSEY and Hercule Poirot were no strangers to the hazards of the library. In the cases they investigated the cause of death was obvious. Usually the victim had been shot by a First World War revolver, or stabbed between the shoulder blades by an oriental dagger or Georgian paper knife.

Less obvious, and less fatal, threats to a bookworm may lie in the books themselves. I was having lunch with a bacteriologist before Christmas and mentioned that in my childhood my mother, a pessimist, fumigated any books lent to us in case they harboured tuberculosis or diphtheria. Rather than expressing sur-



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

prise the bacteriologist expressed approval and assured me that a wide variety of bacteria could be cultivated from the pages of books that had been handled by people who were not too careful with their hands had been. In an editorial in *The Lancet*, Professor Roderick Hay of the St John's Institute

of Dermatology at Guy's Hospital, London, has written on the health of library users. The coughs, sneezing and nose-blowing may reflect the desire of sick people to seek warmth in heated libraries, rather than any love of learning, but wherever the organisms come from it is obvious that the pages of library books are being covered by bacteria.

The question posed by Professor Hay and others has been to what extent can these bacteria be transmitted to subsequent borrowers of the book?

Professor Hay also explores the equally important point as to whether the books themselves form an ideal medium for fungi to reproduce. It is argued that paper, when no more than pinewood in the forest, can be a host to a wide

variety of fungi, and there is nothing to inhibit their proliferation once the wood has been turned to print.

A wide range of bacteria can be cultured from books but research shows that the predominant bacteria is *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, which causes septic sores and spots on the skin and in the nose. The moulding books would also provide a plentiful supply of food for *Aspergillus* and *Alternaria*; both fungi are frequent causes of allergies, whether running noses or wheezing. Household dust, as *The Lancet* explains, can be contaminated by minute quantities of toxins from the spores, and there has been at least one study which related them to the ills of a family in which the whole household suffered headaches, fatigue and diarrhoea until their library was decontaminated.

In general the likelihood of books causing physical ill-health is small; it seems that death in the library will remain the concern of detective story writers, rather than their readers.

Health, pages 12 and 13

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Man dies in Serb grenade attack on Sarajevo tram

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

BOSNIAN Serb gunners opened fire on Sarajevo yesterday evening, hitting a tram with a rocket propelled grenade as it sped along the capital's main avenue. One man was killed and six other people, including a child, were wounded.

Serb snipers simultaneously opened fire on civilians as they strolled through the city streets, which had been almost quiet since the ceasefire took hold on October 12. Several other explosions were heard from the Serb-held neighbourhood of Bivica, in the centre of Sarajevo. Nato forces returned fire with 20mm machinegun rounds, but it was not clear if they hit their target.

The Serb actions come at a time when Nato forces are in the process of deploying 60,000 troops to enforce the Dayton peace agreement. Unlike the United Nations peace force, Nato has vowed to stand up to Serb aggression.

Shortly before they began firing on the capital, the rebel Serbs set fire to a number of buildings they plan to vacate. The fires, which lit up the night sky north of the capital, ignited fears of a mass exodus that could severely embarrass the international community and the Nato peace implementation force.

Up to 75,000 Serbs live in five Serb-held neighbourhoods which are to revert to Bosnian government control under the terms of the Dayton accord. They say they cannot live under the rule of a government they have been fighting for three and a half years.

On January 19 the Serb militia in the five Serb-held areas must disarm and disband, a requirement Serbs say will leave them unprotected and vulnerable to retributions by the Bosnian Government. By February 3 all of their forces, including the

police, must completely withdraw and mark all their minefields.

Over the past few days, residents in the Serb-held areas around Sarajevo have been packing up their belongings and moving them to towns in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina that have been ethnically cleansed of Muslims.

On Vreoca Street in the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza, half the houses stand empty. "We're just waiting to see if the deadline will be extended before leaving," said Elex Luka, a 54-year-old resident.

In Geneva yesterday, the International Committee of the Red Cross said that the Bosnian government army was blocking the planned release of 900 prisoners from the Bosnian war.

Clinton visit: President Clinton will visit American troops in Bosnia this weekend, the White House said last night. (Reuters)



Rescuers search for survivors in the wreckage of the aircraft that crashed in a crowded marketplace in Kinshasa

Lax standards blamed for Zaire crash

AVIATION officials in Zaire condemned lax safety standards yesterday as people in Kinshasa, the capital, mourned the victims of an aircraft crash that killed at least 297 people at an open-air market.

The cause of Monday's crash was not known, but early reports indicated that the Russian-made Antonov 32 was flying without authorisation. Bernardin Munguldeaka, the Transport Minister, said the aircraft was at least 595lb overweight. An official inquiry began yesterday into

the crash. Airport authorities said the turboprop was carrying 6,000lb of oil, flour and salted fish and was bound for Jonas Savimbi's Unita rebels in Angola. The aircraft hit the ground soon after it took off from Kinshasa's Ndolo airport, about three miles from hotels and embassies, skidded across a busy street and into the crowded market.

The four Russian crew survived, and one was in hospital with minor injuries. The others were in police custody yesterday to protect them from angry Zaireans. The authorities said they were not facing criminal charges.

The Government called for two days of mourning and grounded cargo flights.

"The rules of civil aviation are never respected here," Baudoin Rudahindwa, the head of the pilots' union, said. "If they had been, we could have avoided this."

Aircraft from Zaire are not allowed to fly to the United States because of concerns about their safety. (AP)

Spy chief takes over Kozyrev's ministry

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

YEVGENI PRIMAKOV, the head of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, was named Foreign Minister yesterday as successor to Andrei Kozyrev, who resigned last week.

A Middle East expert, Mr Primakov, 66, can be expected to defend Moscow's traditional links with Iran and Iraq. Otherwise he can be expected to do President Yeltsin's bidding on foreign policy. In the past two years, Mr Yeltsin has made clear that he is strongly opposed to the enlargement of Nato into Eastern Europe.

He has begun to make strong statements about the 25 million Russians living in the rest of the former Soviet Union and has insisted on Moscow's right to sell nuclear technology to Iran.

Mr Primakov can be relied on to provide a tough face for tough policies. His appointment shows that Mr Yeltsin has decided to rely more on men of his generation than on the young reformers he used to surround himself with.

Bosnia tribunal studies Britons' torture claims

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE United Nations war crimes tribunal is seeking to interview five soldiers of The Royal Welch Fusiliers who were among 33 members of the regiment held hostage by the Bosnian Serbs last year, after allegations of psychological torture and mistreatment.

It is the first time that British soldiers serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina have made allegations sufficiently serious to be considered by the tribunal based in The Hague.

All 33 soldiers from The Royal Welch Fusiliers who were captured by the Serbs while serving in Gorazde, the Muslim enclave in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina, were debriefed when they were returned to Britain after up to ten days as hostages. A full report on the debriefings was passed to the tribunal.

Sources close to the tribunal said there was at least one case of a soldier enduring a mock execution in which a Serb held

who were released after five days last June said they were well-treated but they were under orders to say nothing controversial because of fears for the remaining hostages.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and General Ratko Mladic, the Serb army commander, were told that they would be held personally responsible for the well-being of the British soldiers.

Apart from the 33 members of The Royal Welch Fusiliers, an RAF officer, Flight Lieutenant Andy Hall was also held hostage.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said: "Happily all the hostages were released and returned safely."

The tribunal, which has to ask permission to interview the five soldiers, is expected to study the allegations as potential "grave breaches" of the Geneva Convention.

James Gow, a British academic who gave evidence to the first hearing of the tribunal last year, said: "Any allegations like this should be passed to the tribunal and I would hope that the Government would give every assistance in pursuing the matter."

The 1st Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers is currently based at Beadley barracks near Chesham. Last month the regiment published a diary of its six-month deployment in Gorazde, which was one of the most dangerous tours by a British infantry battalion in the three-year UN peacekeeping operation.

The diary, written mainly by Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Riley, the commanding officer of the battalion, did not refer to the mistreatment of the hostages. Colonel Riley did not wish to make any comment yesterday.

David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, said it was vital that all allegations of psychological torture should be fully investigated and that the Ministry of Defence should allow the soldiers to give evidence to the war crimes tribunal.

Labour tried to raise the torture allegations in the Commons yesterday, but Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, said he was unaware of the reports of mistreatment.



David Jones, one of the fusiliers held hostage

a gun to his head and said he would be shot if another Nato aircraft flew overhead to drop bombs.

The sources said there may have been other mock executions and one soldier suffering from a kidney disorder was refused treatment. Others had been chained to Serb military installations.

A spokesman for the tribunal, which has so far dealt with 53 war crimes allegations in the former Yugoslavia and indicted 12 individuals, said: "The taking of hostages and their use as human shields are part of our investigations."

The first batch of 11 soldiers

American balloonist reaches the Atlantic

BY OLIVER AUGUST

STEVE FOSSETT, the Chicago banker who aims to be the first man to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon, last night reached the Atlantic Ocean after lifting off from South Dakota on Monday.

Having flown across the snow-covered eastern states without problems in *Solo Challenger*, he will today attempt the perilous Atlantic crossing. His team of meteorologists has advised him to fly lower and therefore more slowly to avoid unfavourable weather over Western Europe. They hope he will fly south towards the Mediterranean from where he will continue towards the Middle East and Kazakhstan.

Frank Hartmann, who monitors the voyage from Loyola University in Chicago, said: "It is extremely cold up there, around -40C (-40F). Repositioning him at below 18,000ft may also make it a bit warmer for him. He is desperately trying to catch up on some sleep."

Mr Fossett's problems will significantly improve Richard Branson's chances of beating him. The British tycoon is due to lift off from Morocco in *Virgin Global Challenger* early next week. Mr Branson's balloon is fully heated and pressurised and can fly at an altitude of up to 40,000ft, leaving bad weather below it.



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White House says President would have liked to punch Safire on the nose

Columnist brands the First Lady as 'congenital liar'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE White House lashed out yesterday at both a leading conservative columnist who had labelled Hillary Clinton a "congenital liar" and at the First Lady's chief Republican scourge.

Mike McCurry, the White House press secretary, said that President Clinton would like to have punched William Safire on the nose for the columnist's "outrageous personal attack" on his wife in Monday's *New York Times*.

Safire's column was headlined "Blizzard of Lies" and began: "Americans of all persuasions are coming to the sad realisation that our First Lady — a woman of undoubted talents who was a role model for many in her generation — is a congenital liar."

"Drip by drip, like Whitewater torture, the case is being made that she is compelled to mislead, and to ensnare her subordinates and friends in a web of deceit."

At the same time the First Lady's lawyer sent a letter to Alfonso D'Amato, the Senate Whitewater committee chairman, demanding that he substantiate the "wholly unfounded and completely false" accusations he had levelled at her on Sunday. "I don't believe you can," concluded the lawyer, David Kendall.

This new furor over Mrs Clinton's veracity was triggered when the White House last week suddenly "discovered" and released two long-sought sets of documents.

Mr D'Amato insisted that there were "tremendous inconsistencies" between these documents and Mrs Clinton's sworn statements to investigators claiming minimal involvement with either the bankrupt bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair or the 1993 dismissal of the White House travel office staff.

The Republican senator said those statements were "at variance with the truth," exposed the First Lady to



Hillary Clinton: could face perjury hearings

charges of perjury, and would be the subject of new congressional hearings.

The documents included billing records showing that, as an Arkansas lawyer in the 1980s, Mrs Clinton did about \$7,000 (£4,516) worth of work for the bank, Madison Guaranty, which was owned by the Clintons' business partner. That work included advice on a highly suspect land deal that hastened the bank's collapse and is now the subject of a criminal investigation.

Safire noted the White House had miraculously "found" the records just two days after the deadline for suing professionals who advised the corrupt Savings and Loans company. The documents also included an aide's memo explicitly blaming the First Lady for the dismissal of the seven innocent employees of the travel office, whose business was covered by one of her Hollywood friends.

The White House suggested that the aide was disgruntled because he had been disciplined for his role in the sackings, but on Monday night ABC television produced

a second memo that the same aide had written before his reprimand which quoted Mrs Clinton as saying: "We need those people out. We need our people in."

The media is now openly questioning the First Lady's truthfulness. A *Washington Post* editorial declared that "the First Lady has some explaining to do". The *New York Times* bemoaned the Clintons' endless "obfuscations" and observed that "whenever the White House pronounces the [Whitewater] story dead, something else crops up to challenge the First Couple's credibility". The conservative *Washington Times* lamented that "the only consistency this Administration has displayed is its aversion to the truth".

Safire predicted Mrs Clinton would sink into deeper trouble. He said Mrs Clinton's friends and aides had stonewalled or deceived investigators in an effort to protect the First Lady, but were beginning to have second thoughts.

"They were willing to cover her lying when it advanced their careers, but are inclined to listen to their own lawyers when faced with perjury indictments," Safire's column highlighted what he called the First Lady's "series of lies" on everything from Whitewater to the killing she made on the commodities market with the help of a friend in 1979 — "a \$100,000 bribe".

Mr McCurry retorted that "columnists have the right to write what they want to, even when it's an outrageous personal attack that has no basis in fact. The President, if he were not the President, would have delivered a more forceful response to that on the bridge of Mr Safire's nose".

Mr McCurry's angry words are certain to dog the national tour on which Mrs Clinton is about to embark to promote her new book — *It Takes a Village* — on raising children.

Sex case against Clinton 'can go to trial'

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

PRESIDENT CLINTON suffered a big embarrassment yesterday when a court ruling that had postponed a sexual harassment case against the President until after he left office was overturned.

By a two-to-one margin, the federal appeals court decreed that Paula Jones, a former Arkansas state employee, should be allowed to proceed with her suit now. It rejected a White House argument that Presidents should be protected from frivolous or politically inspired lawsuits that would distract them from their duties, saying: "A sitting President is not immune from civil suits for his unofficial acts."

Mr Clinton's lawyers will, if necessary, go all the way to the Supreme Court to stop the case coming to trial, a process they should be able to spin out well beyond November's presidential election.

Yesterday's ruling will, nevertheless, remind voters of another highly embarrassing episode at a time when Mr Clinton's wife, Hillary, is in deep trouble over both Whitewater and the sacking of the White House travel office.

It will also add to the Clintons' crushing legal bills. Since taking office they have run up more than \$2 million in legal costs while defending themselves against Whitewater charges and the Paula Jones case.

Ms Jones filed a detailed lawsuit claiming \$750,000 (£480,000) in damages from the President in May 1994, two days before the statute of limitations expired. She alleged that in 1991, when Mr Clinton was Arkansas Governor and she was a state employee, he used a state trooper to entice her to a Little Rock hotel room, where he sexually harassed her after she refused his initial crude advances.

Mr Clinton's high-powered lawyers strongly denied the charge, portraying Ms Jones as a money-grabbing opportunist and a pawn of the various conservative groups backing her.

Robert Bennett, Mr Clinton's chief lawyer, had argued that allowing the case to proceed would set a precedent of exposing sitting Presidents to lawsuits by anyone who disagreed with their policies.

But Gilbert Davis, Ms Jones's attorney, has asserted that his client is due the same rights to a trial as anyone else.



Paula Jones, who says Bill Clinton sexually harassed her when he was Governor of Arkansas, won the right to pursue her claim while he holds the presidency

In December 1994, a district judge in Little Rock refused to dismiss the case but ruled that it should not go to trial until after Mr Clinton left office.

That ruling has now been reversed. "Obviously we are a little disappointed, but there was a very strong dissenting opinion... which we believe the Supreme Court will follow, assuming it takes the case," said Mr Bennett.

He has two weeks to persuade a circuit court to examine the matter. If it agrees,

both sides would be allowed to argue their case anew, a process that could take months.

If it refuses, Mr Bennett would have 90 days to file a direct appeal to the Supreme Court. "It's a case I would expect the [the Supreme Court] to hear," he said. "You have some very important constitutional issues here."

The court would, however, probably not consider the matter until its next term, which begins in October.

East Coast blizzards kill at least 50

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

FROM Alabama to Maine, the American East Coast remained under a frozen blanket yesterday as dying blizzards continued and left at least 50 dead, with a third of the country buried under record snowfalls.

States of emergency were still in force from Kentucky to New York, thousands of students and schoolchildren stayed at home and airports opened only gradually. Digging out was expected to take several days.

The Government in Washington, due to have opened on Monday for the first time in more than three weeks since the budget impasse began, stayed closed for the second day with most of its federal workers happy to make swift sorties to the few grocery shops that had opened.

Worst affected was Philadelphia which was paralysed by its worst storm this century. Side streets disappeared under 4ft-high drift. Two-thirds of the city's police cars were snowbound.

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* was trying to start its presses again yesterday after failing to publish for the first time in its 166-year history. In the circumstances, Mark Schweiker, the Lieutenant-Governor, had ruled that newspapers were "not essential".

Debbie and Frank Winters, who married at the weekend, were equally unfortunate. They postponed their honeymoon in Ireland after staying the night at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. "We spent the night on chairs with a little sign saying 'Just Married'," Mrs Winters said. She returned to her home in Ridge, New York last night. "It was the worst day of my life."

The legacy of the storm, which claimed lives mostly in traffic accidents, has been to freeze an already sluggish economy. Much of the daily business on the East Coast was at a standstill and is not expected to return to normal until next week. Initial estimates suggest that the cost to the economy will be between \$5 billion and \$10 billion (£3.2 billion and £6.4 billion).

Mafia was helped by Andreotti, court told

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

TOMMASO BUSCETTA, a former mafioso, supported in court yesterday accusations that Giulio Andreotti, the former Prime Minister, was the guarantor of the Mafia in Rome for nearly half a decade.

"I could have fingered Andreotti from the beginning of my collaboration [with the state], but such was his power that I would have been deemed ridiculous and my statements about the military power of the Mafia would have been in vain," Signor Buscetta told the court in Padua.

He recalled his membership of the Mafia since the 1940s as a "soldier" loyal to the underworld boss Luciano Liggio and his past contacts with the American mob.

He said he spoke to FBI investigators about Signor Andreotti after Giovanni Falcone, a magistrate, was murdered in 1992.

Signor Buscetta described relations between two Mafia tax collectors, the Salvos, and Signor Andreotti, which he has repeatedly denied. "The Salvos spoke to me several times of Andreotti as if he was an intimate confidant of theirs and that they could count on his help at any moment. They also called him 'uncle' with me, perhaps not to mention his name. In the Cosa Nostra we never talked of specific matters because one does not ask questions in the Mafia."

Signor Buscetta also said that Gaetano Badalamenti, a Mafia boss, told him that Signor Andreotti had arranged for Filippo Rimi, Signor Badalamenti's brother-in-law, to be cleared of murder charges.

Signor Andreotti denies charges that he served as the Mafia's chief political protector in Rome. The trial is continuing.

Last Mitterrand manuscript will answer critics of Vichy links

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND left behind an 800-page autobiographical manuscript, his postscript to a brilliant but ambiguous political career, it was disclosed yesterday, a day after the former President's death from prostate cancer.

The manuscript covers Mitterrand's life from the Second World War to the end of his second seven-year term in 1995. Most crucially, it includes a discussion of his activities as an official in the Vichy regime, his publisher, Odile Jacob, said.

Mitterrand was angered by allegations of collaboration and the corruption scandals that marred his final years in office. Knowing death was approaching, he tried to ensure what he considered his rightful place in history. Since last May, when Mitterrand left the Elysée Palace, there have been persistent rumours that he was close to completing a last book to answer his critics.

The manuscript comprises two parts: a series of interviews with the French journalist, Georges-Marc Benamou, covering the early part of his life, including his wartime activities, which has been "completely rewritten" by Mitterrand, and a second section made up of personal notes on his subsequent political career.

The book will doubtless be hailed by Mitterrand's supporters as the definitive account of his life and damned as a posthumous rewriting of history by his detractors. Mme Jacob said that the book should not be seen as Mitterrand's "memoirs" but as a "mosaic work about 50 years of political and historic life".

Tomorrow, which has been declared a national day of mourning, Mitterrand will

be buried at his home town of Jarnac. John Major will lead the British delegation to the Paris memorial ceremony.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, President Mubarak of Egypt, and Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish Prime Minister, are expected to attend. The French Embassy in London has opened a book of condolence.

Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, has ordered that flags on all official buildings should be flown at half-mast to mark the occasion, but in contrast to the state funeral for Charles de Gaulle, schools and administrative offices will be open.

Hundreds of mourners gathered yesterday outside the Paris apartment where Mitterrand died, to place flowers on the pavement and bid farewell to France's longest-serving President.

The Socialist faithful, many

carrying the party symbol of a single red rose, queued for up to an hour before, one by one, they filed past 9, Avenue Frédéric-le-Play, and penned their farewells in condolence books beneath kiosks draped with funeral purple cloth.

"To the memory of a great man," wrote Eric Chausser, after adding his rose to the vast pile of flowers by the steps of the apartment block in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower. M Chausser, a self-styled "Socialist to the death", explained that Mitterrand's election in 1981 had been "the happiest day of my life".

Local florists sold out of red roses, and while not all Parisians shared M Chausser's enthusiasm for the late President, the solemnity of the simple ritual left few bystanders unmoved.

"I did not like him," said a taxi driver. "But he had strength. He was a fighter."

The Socialist faithful, many

Bonn owns up to difficulties over meeting monetary union targets

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY almost certainly failed to meet one of the Maastricht criteria last year, according to Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister.

The Bavarian politician, addressing colleagues from the Christian Social Union, looked rather sheepish yesterday when he admitted that Germany would probably not stay within the European monetary union targets for new indebtedness.

Precise figures are only due in the middle of this month, but it is already clear that even Germany is having difficulty scraping into the monetary union. If entry to the EMU were assessed on the basis of last year's data, only Luxembourg would qualify.

His comments came as President Kwasniewski of Poland arrived for a visit yesterday to secure German support for Warsaw's early entry to the European Union and

Nato. Mr Kwasniewski's trip, his first port of call since his election last year, was also aimed at quashing doubts on his Communist past.

Rivalry between Poland and Czechoslovakia for early entry to the EU has now come into the open and Mr Kwasniewski's visit signalled that he regarded Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, as the champion of Polish interests.

Herr Waigel blamed yesterday the lax spending habits of state governments and local authorities. According to the Maastricht terms, members of the monetary union have to keep new debts to less than 3 per cent of GDP and German officials have been urging member states to aim for a 1 per cent target. Financial sources said yesterday that the Germans were likely to have notched up new public debts equivalent to 3.5 per cent of GDP. But the Finance

Minister was confident that Germany would qualify on the basis of 1997 data. "But the federal states will have to make much bigger savings in 1996."

Local government cuts are



Kwasniewski: sees Kohl as Poland's champion

beginning to bite. Bonn city council has been switching off traffic lights to save money; other city councils are closing swimming pools.

Germany has been spared much of the pain felt by the French in trying to meet the Maastricht criteria. But there has been a shift in mood over the past few weeks. The economic recovery is only limping along. The increasing unemployment figures are adding to the gloom. Yesterday it was announced that the number of Germans without a job topped 3.8 million.

□ Suspended term: Wolfgang Vogel, the 70-year-old East German lawyer who mediated about 100 spy swaps during the Cold War, was sentenced to a two-year suspended jail term after being found guilty of bullying East German emigres into selling their property at cut-price rates in return for exit visas.



Madonna: "the system can, and does, work"

Madonna stalker convicted

BY GILES WHITTILL

MADONNA has emerged from her brush with a stalker not only unscathed, but as a self-styled champion of women and celebrities in fear of their obsessive admirers.

A jury took only four and a half hours to convict Robert Dewey Hoskins, 38, on five counts of stalking and making "terrorist threats" against the singer and her staff last year. The prosecution will press for the maximum 11-year jail term when he is sentenced next month.

Afterwards Madonna issued a statement saying she hoped "this case lets other stalking victims know that the system can, and does, work".

In fact, the system nearly broke down over her reluctance to testify. California's pioneering anti-stalking law requires victims to testify in person, but Madonna repeatedly claimed that the prospect scared her. She eventually appeared last week on pain of arrest for contempt of court, bringing with her a circus atmosphere reminiscent of the O.J. Simpson trial.

Her performance on the witness stand proved compelling. "She was very real, very believable," a male juror said of her testimony, which included detailed accounts of nightmares about Hoskins. "We all walked away feeling she was frightened."

Hoskins, described in court simply as "a homeless man", broke into Madonna's Hollywood Hills estate twice last spring.

San Francisco in party mood for its first black Mayor

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

MASSED choirs, a huge street party and a ribald telephone conversation with President Clinton marked the inauguration of San Francisco's first black Mayor.

Willie Brown, a former shoeshine boy from segregated small-town Texas, has been to the inauguration of San Francisco's first black Mayor.

Willie Brown, a former shoeshine boy from segregated small-town Texas, has been to the inauguration of San Francisco's first black Mayor.

After four years under Frank Jordan, a stolid former police chief, the city that prides itself on style and tolerance welcomed its new Mayor with fireworks from the quayside, music from 50 choirs and free meals for 10,000 homeless people from 75 restaurants.

Festivity touched even the day's most solemn moment. After administering the oath of office, John Dearman, a state Supreme Court judge and fellow black American, introduced Mr Brown to a crowd of 7,500 as "da Mayor".

The pair then mimicked basketball players, saluting each other with "high fives".

In his inaugural speech Mr Brown sided unmistakably with public spending and affirmative action, which are both political bogys elsewhere in the United States.

He appointed the first black head of the fire department, the first Chinese American to head the police department, and promised a \$2 million (£1.29 million) youth centre for one of the city's poorest neighbourhoods. Mr Brown also

promised a new baseball stadium and a world AIDS conference in the city.

His most eagerly awaited statement, however, was probably sartorial. Disappointing one newspaper columnist who had jokingly urged him to wear a toga in the manner of a Roman emperor, he wore a \$3,000 Brioni suit.

People are far more comfortable with a well-clothed Mayor than with an unclothed one," an onlooker said, referring to Mr Jordan's disastrous attempt to win extra votes by posing naked in a shower.

Mr Brown has carefully avoided talk of national politics during his mayoral campaign, although after three decades in the California assembly he is one of the nation's most recognised and powerful Democrats.

A call from the White House came through minutes after the inauguration speech, but the Mayor was put on hold for ten minutes before the President finally came on the line.

When he did, Mr Brown declared the atmosphere in San Francisco to be "just incredible. There is no snow and no Republicans."

The throng, which included the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the civil rights activist, then moved to a disused wharf for a \$300,000 public party paid for by society figures and corporations who have supported Mr Brown's campaign.

The homeless ate elsewhere, prompting an activist to complain that the free meals were a device "to draw homeless people away from the party".

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Day 3 of our series: Vitality and vitamins — plus an age-old problem...

■ Is it true that food supplements can help us to stay young? Below, **Rita Carter** explains how increased doses of vitamins may reduce the risk of major life-threatening diseases, and **Dr Thomas Stuttaford** offers some helpful advice to couples who find their love lives flagging in middle age

■ Opposite, we look at ways to stay bright and alert well into old age



THE SCIENCE of AGELESS AGEING

TOMORROW

■ The truth about the male menopause, and the effects of HRT on women, by **Jeremy Laurance**

■ How learning to breathe properly will keep you young, by **Leslie Kenton**

■ How effective are the remedies for baldness, by **Rita Carter**

Pills that offer the elixir of life

SUPPLEMENTS CAN PREVENT AGE-RELATED DISEASES

Are food supplements really necessary? The answer is no. Provided you eat a balanced diet, you can survive quite happily without them.

But most people want to do more than survive. They want to glow and bounce with health and energy; they want to remain wrinkle-free and sexually frolicsome and, above all, they want to go on that way for a long, long time.

Food supplements promise these things, and there is more and more evidence to suggest they can deliver. It is now widely accepted that vitamins and minerals, taken in doses larger than are normally found in the UK diet, can help to prevent nearly all the major age-related diseases.

For example, antioxidant supplements such as vitamins A, C and E have been shown,

repeatedly, to reduce the risk of heart disease, cancer, strokes and cataracts. Some studies have suggested that high-dose antioxidant supplements may even prevent Parkinson's disease. Garlic reduces blood pressure, while ginseng is said to boost libido. Thiamine has been found in one study to reduce the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease; chromium seems to help to prevent middle-age spread and late-onset diabetes, and calcium plus vitamin D supplements help to guard against osteoporosis. Green-lipped mussel and shark cartilage extracts reduce symptoms of arthritis, and evening primrose oil can help to keep ageing skin elastic.

However exotic their names and miraculous the claims for them, nearly all supplements fall into five main categories.

The most important, as far as ageing is concerned, are antioxidants. These work by mopping up free radicals which can damage your DNA and reduce its ability to make effective bodily repairs and maintenance.

Immune system boosters are another major group. These help the body to combat infection and some cancers. Bodybuilders provide the raw material for constructing new body cells. Metabolic catalysts help physiological processes to run smoothly. Absorption aids ensure that other compounds get used properly.

It is unwise to try mixing and matching. You are better off buying one of the combined supplements products which gives all your daily requirements in one pill.

RITA CARTER



Stay young and beautiful: food supplements promise to help you to glow and bounce with health, remain wrinkle-free and sexually frolicsome.



VITAMIN A

Type: antioxidant, dose: 7,500iu, protects eyesight; helps to repair skin, nails and hair; may help to prevent mouth and lung cancer.

VITAMIN B12

Type: metabolic catalyst/body-builder, dose: 500mcg, protects against anaemia; boosts energy; reputed to help to counteract depression and confusion.

BETA-CAROTENE

Type: antioxidant/immune booster, dose: 6mg, protects skin from sun damage; boosts immunity; helps to prevent lung disease.

VITAMIN C

Type: antioxidant, dose: 500-

WHAT A SUPPLEMENTARY ANTI-AGEING DOSE CAN DO FOR YOU

1,000mg, helps to repair skin; boosts resistance to infection; prevents cataracts and gum disease. Possible protection against Parkinson's disease.

VITAMIN E

Type: antioxidant/immune booster, dose: 400iu, delays skin ageing; protects against cardiovascular disease; possibly boosts energy levels.

THIAMINE (B1)

Type: metabolic catalyst, dose: 100mg, may reduce symptoms of Alzheimer's disease; may alleviate sciatica, lumbago and improve heart function.

CALCIUM

Type: body-builder, dose: 1,200mg, strengthens bones; possibly helps heart functions.

FISH OIL

Type: metabolic catalyst/immune booster, dose: 1,200mg, helps to keep all body functions healthy; boosts immune system and protects against heart disease, arthritis and some cancers.

SILICA

Type: metabolic catalyst, dose: not established, possibly useful in removing aluminium which might be a causal factor in Alzheimer's disease.

MAGNESIUM

Type: metabolic catalyst and absorption aid, dose: 500mg, protects against many types of cardiovascular disease.

ZINC

Type: metabolic catalyst, dose: 25mg, helps to maintain fertility and libido; protects against loss of taste and smell.

GARLIC

Type: immune booster/antioxidant, dose: 1,000mcg, improves circulation, might protect against cancer. Wards off infection.

EVENING PRIMROSE OIL

Type: metabolic catalyst and immune booster, dose: 2,000mg, improves skin, counteracts effects of smoking and pollution, possible heart protection.

GINSENG

Type: metabolic catalyst, dose: 250mg, testosterone booster; reputed to lift libido and increase potency. May also increase mental efficiency.

MUSSEL EXTRACT

Type: metabolic catalyst, dose: not established, eases arthritis.

RITA CARTER

When a woman must take the lead

SEX IN THE MIDDLE YEARS

Kinsey, Masters and Johnson, Seligman, Newman and Nichols were the pundits whose research on sexual response in the 1960s and 1970s was universally accepted.

Some of their statistics are now questioned, but everyday medical practice confirms their view that a man's libido (sexual drive), which is so much greater than a woman's in youth, starts to lessen at least ten years before hers does.

Most women not only retain their libido into middle age, but often find that it increases.

Research published in the 1970s shows that if they do have a poor sex life it is usually because of their partner's behaviour.

But we men are proud and conceited, and subtlety and tact are called for if our potency is to be preserved. By late middle-age, the time when a woman is setting the pace, she may find that signalling her sexual needs by wearing a stronger scent, or putting a few more candles on the dinner table, no longer works.

Men are proud and conceited — and tact may be called for

ideal state, in which the increasing sexual desire which may have characterised premenopausal years will level off.

Research published in the 1960s shows that a woman's sex life tends to follow the pattern set by older members in her family, but it is difficult to know whether this is determined genetically or culturally.

As with men, a distinction has to be made between the physical and the cerebral in any decline of sexual ability. Women's sexual drive, before HRT was available, was not always coupled with a comparable ability. Women, like men, often find that they suffer from reduced sensitivity. Their orgasms may not be as powerful, and they may lose the female ability to achieve multiple orgasms. The absence of lubrication has always been considered as the female equivalent of male impotency, but in fact the changes of sexual ageing in a woman are much more subtle.

Fortunately for those women who are suitable for treatment with HRT, many of

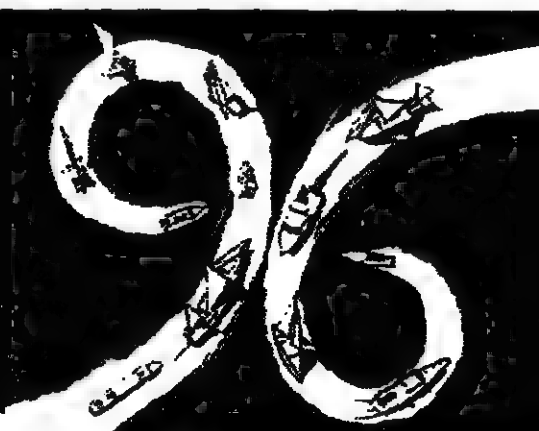


The older woman's needs — in *The Graduate* Mrs Robinson (Anne Bancroft) seduced the young Dustin Hoffman

the main cause for discontinuing it has been the side-effects — the worst of which are severe premenstrual-type troubles. However, it is claimed that women with

teeth, and has a beneficial effect on the cardiovascular system. HRT also lessens the likelihood of menopausal depression and, used in carefully selected cases, can even cure it.

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keeping
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HOW TO COUNTERACT MENTAL AGING

the cholesterol
has been overpl

HEALTHY



...and how true is that you are only as old as you think you are?

Use it or lose it: keeping the brain young

HOW TO COUNTERACT MENTAL DECLINE

You hear the same complaint all the time as people get older: "My memory is terrible." Is it all in the mind, or do real changes take place in the brain with age to justify such grumbling? The depressing answer is that the brain's cells, the neurons, die and decline in efficiency with age. However, according to Professor Arthur Shimamura of the University of California in Berkeley, people vary greatly in how they change mentally with age, as well as how much their mental faculties decline: in other words, while some stay almost as sharp as they ever were, others show big changes in their mental acuity.

Professor Shimamura says that there are three main ways in which mental function changes. The first is mental speed, for example how quickly you can react to fast-moving incidents on the road. Drivers in their late teens react quickly but tend to drive too fast, while the over-60s are more cautious but react more slowly. The near-inevitable mental slowing with age also partly explains why soccer players are seen as old in their thirties, while golf professionals are still in their prime at that age. This type of mental slowing results from a reduction in the efficiency with which the brain's neurons work.

The fact that adults find it harder to learn musical instruments than children points to a second type of mental loss with age — a reduction in learning capacity. Part of the brain known as the temporal lobes controls new learning, and is particularly vulnerable to the effects of ageing. This means we have to rely more on diaries and other mental aids as we get older, take longer to learn a new language and are slower to master new routines and technologies at work.

"Working memory" is the third brain system which is vulnerable to the effects of ageing. Working memory is the brain's "mental black-

board", where we juggle from moment to moment the things we have to keep in mind when solving problems, planning tasks and generally organising our day-to-day life. Absent-mindedness occurs at all ages because of imperfections in the working memory system — so, for instance, you may continually lose your glasses, or find yourself walking into a room of your house only to find that you cannot remember what you came for.

Such absent-mindedness tends to creep up on us as we age and occurs because our plans and intentions, which are chalked up on the mental

'By stimulating your brain you can maintain your mental acuity well into old age'

blackboard, are easily wiped out by stray thoughts and other distractions. Stress and preoccupation can also cause such absent-mindedness, in addition to age-related changes to the brain. The frontal lobes of the brain — the parts located behind the forehead and above the eyes — are where the working memory system is located. Like the temporal lobes which handle new learning, the frontal lobes are more vulnerable to the ageing process than other parts of the brain.

The sobering results of these biological changes are laid bare in the performance of different age groups on standard memory, attention and problem-solving tests. For instance, on a test where you have to try to memorise a list of words read out and repeated five times, the average 18-year-old will score 54 out of a

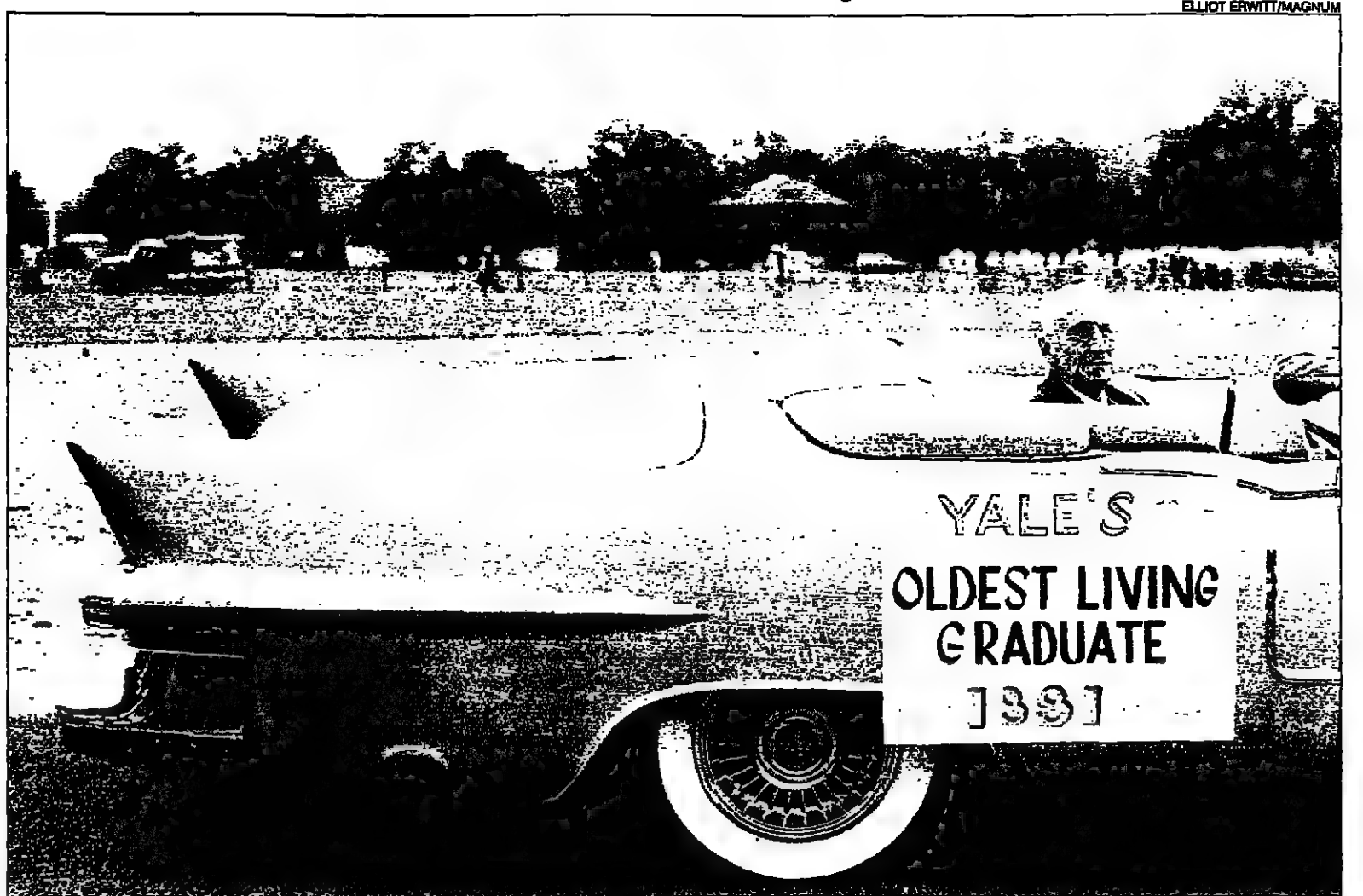
maximum possible of 75, the average 45-year-old will score 47, and the average 65-year-old only 37. In looking up a map, people in their early twenties find 77 out of 80 symbols in two minutes, while those in their late fifties find only 58 in the same time.

The news, however, is not all bleak. Although neurons reduce in number with age, the remaining neurons send out new and longer connecting fibres (dendrites) to maintain connections and allow us to function reasonably well with only relatively small drops in ability. In fact, the average length of these connections in 80-year-olds is 25 per cent greater than in 50-year-olds, suggesting that the ageing brain is able to compensate for the loss of neurons.

This and other evidence leads to the intriguing possibility that the principle "use it or lose it" might apply to the ageing brain. Professor Shimamura studied a group of university professors who were still intellectually active, and compared their performance on neuropsychological tests with that of others of their age group, as well as with younger people. He found that on several tests of memory, the mentally active professors in their sixties and early seventies were superior to their contemporaries, and as good as the younger people.

Research on animals provides even stronger evidence for the effects of stimulation on brain structure. Professor Bryan Kolb, of the University of Lethbridge in Canada, has shown that animals kept in stimulating environments show sprouting and lengthening of the connecting nerve fibres in their brains, in comparison with animals kept in unstimulating surroundings.

The beneficial effects of continued mental activity in human beings is shown by the fact that older *Mastermind* contestants are just as fast and accurate in responding to Magnus Magnusson's general knowledge questions as their younger competitors,



Some elderly people remain as sharp as they were in their teens, while others show failing mental ability. But can mental fitness be taught?

suggesting that at least part of their intellectual apparatus is spared the effects of ageing because of practice and skill. Such findings lead to the intriguing possibility of "mental fitness training" to accompany jogging and workouts for the health conscious.

Research in Stockholm by Professor Lars Backman and his colleagues has shown that older people can be trained to use their memory better, with the effects of this training lasting several years.

Just as people go bald or grey at different rates, so the same is true for their mental faculties. In an average group of 25-year olds, there will be relatively small variations in baldness and greyness, but the differences in a group of 50-year-olds will be great.

Why this should be true for memory and other mental functions is not yet clear, but physical factors play a part. If Professor Shimamura is right, then the degree to which people use and stretch their mental faculties may also have a role to play.

IAN ROBERTSON

How to put yourself in the picture

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR MEMORY

YOU ARE at a party. You know she is important you know you should remember her name. But, try as you might, you can't recall it.

The older you are, the more likely you will find yourself in this situation. But can we do anything about this? Research in Sweden suggests that we can, using simple techniques.

To remember something, you have to take it in, or encode it. Then it has to be stored until needed, when it must be retrieved. Age affects people's brains differently. Your memory can suffer depending on which of your encoding, storage or retrieval systems is most vulnerable.

Another distinction is between verbal and visual memory. For instance, if you have to learn your way in a strange town, you can take this in verbally (turn left at the cathe-

dral etc) or visuo-spatially in the form of a mental picture.

To make the most of your memory, learn to use these different systems — encoding, storage, retrieval, verbal and visual — to the full.

Most people rely more on verbal than on visuo-spatial memory. So, if we can develop the habit of using visual imagery, we will have a backup system when our verbal memory slips with age.

"Using visual imagery can be useful," says Dr Barbara Wilson of the Medical Research Council's Applied Psychology Unit in Cambridge, and a leading expert on memory rehabilitation. This is because memories resemble strands of wool in a pullover — the more closely knitted they are, the less chance they

have of unravelling. Hence, if what you want to remember is connected with mental pictures, then there is less chance that it will be lost.

For example, suppose you meet someone called Bill Penfield you could take a moment to imagine a pen stuck in a field with a dollar bill impaled on the pen.

Memory is also improved by linking what you are learning to what you already know. A method known as PQRS (preview, question, read, state and test) gives a practical way of improving recall of anything you read. (Preview: scan an article before reading it. Question: what do you already know about this topic? Read: read it. State: when you have finished, review the contents

relating it to what you already know about the subject. Test: test yourself on the article.)

The brain has another type of memory system — implicit memory — which allows us to learn information without paying attention to it. Crucial to its efficient use, however, is that you do not make mistakes while learning. If, say, you are trying to learn a list of French vocabulary, wrong guesses during learning can lead to the memory holding on to these wrong responses.

So, for instance, you might learn two words, and keep testing yourself on these two. By gradually building up the list, and testing yourself only on words you are confident you know well, you will learn better than if you try to learn 200 words in one go, making wrong guesses in the process.

IAN ROBERTSON

The cholesterol scare has been overplayed

WHY I EAT BUTTER

I eat butter and enjoy red meat. Yet, like most people, I have read the health warnings and absorbed the message about saturated fat and heart disease. Virginia Bontomley's *Health of the Nation*, her call to arms when Health Secretary, elevated saturated fats above all other dietary evils.

The real world is less straightforward. To judge by the confident manner of the campaigners for healthy eating, one might assume that their recipes had been proved in large-scale trials. But, as Professor Michael Oliver of the Royal Brompton Hospital has pointed out, there has never been a controlled trial of low-fat diets in healthy people.

Different considerations apply to those who have already survived heart attacks, or to people with extra-high levels of cholesterol in their bloodstream caused by their genes. But for the average Joe, low-fat diets are both extremely inefficient at reducing cholesterol levels and of unproven efficacy in cutting the death rate. For Joe's wife, less prone to heart disease, the argument is even feeble. The point never seems to register.

For a start, the relationship between fats in the diet and the prevalence of heart disease is very rough and ready. Britons may indeed eat too much fat, but heart disease statistics fail to prove it. The areas with the highest heart deaths — Scotland and the North — do not have a fattier diet than the rest of us. The rich eat more fat, and have higher cholesterol levels, but suffer less heart disease than the poor.

There is a link between high cholesterol levels and the risk of heart disease, but there is an equally strong association with another factor found in the blood, fibrinogen. But because high fibrinogen levels cannot be blamed on individual greed or a refusal to accept



Abstract of the face of an obese woman trapped in a fat cell

advice, they have been almost entirely ignored. Cholesterol, and its link with fat, has achieved an eminence largely unjustified by the scientific data.

What the dietary advice really amounts to is a national experiment with results that cannot be predicted. People who have taken it seriously and plunged into polyunsaturates could be doing themselves more harm than good. There is growing evidence that over-emphasis on the plant-based fatty acids, the omega-6 series used to make margarine, can upset the balance of the diet.

In reality, public inertia has meant that diets have changed far less than campaigners would have liked. We eat less because we lead more sedentary lives, but the proportion of energy from fat has not declined. The emphasis on fat

has diverted attention from other, more important factors. A MORI poll showed that nearly three times as many people believed that to reduce heart disease, it was more important to cut dietary fat than to stop smoking.

Yet stopping smoking reduces risk by 50 to 70 per cent in five years, while reducing blood cholesterol levels by 5 per cent would cut risk by only about 10 per cent. And achieving this sort of cholesterol reduction would require a pretty stringent diet, replacing butter with soft margarine, certainly wouldn't do it.

Avoiding obesity and smoking, and taking a reasonable amount of exercise, are the best ways of avoiding heart disease. Controlling high blood pressure helps. The rest is optional.

NIGEL HAWKES

Why sight fades with time

FAILING EYES

NEARLY everyone sees less well as they get older. Over the age of 50 the lens takes longer to refocus: night vision deteriorates and about 5 per cent of people will develop cataracts bad enough to need surgery. There are four main problems:

□ **Presbyopia** — the inability to focus on near objects — is caused by a gradual stiffening of the lens. So far there is no treatment except spectacles, but trials are under way on laser therapy and lens implants.

□ **Cataracts** can be treated by laser, but are more commonly removed by cutting out the clouded lens and inserting a plastic replacement.

□ **Glaucoma** is characterised by a build-up of fluid in the eye, and a damaged optic nerve which results in loss of peripheral vision. Eyedrops or surgery will increase drainage.

□ **Macular degeneration** — the loss of central vision because of changes in the retina — is the most common cause of blindness in people over 55. There is no treatment.

RITA CARTER

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Women in sheep's clothing



Classic knitwear can be worn for work and after dark — and it lasts

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

There can be few items of clothing more useful than classics in cashmere, lambswool and wool mixes. They provide the basis of an endless variation of looks, from casual to smart, for work and play. Discovering these valuable pieces at discounted prices is an extra bonus — there can be no better time to buy knitwear than during the sales. The choice available is unlimited from the specialised cashmere

houses, designer labels, department stores and high-street brands. There are few who do not offer some form of knitwear. The traditional silhouettes work best. Still favourite is the perennial twinset as worn by everyone from Vivienne Westwood to the Queen. However, what could be more useful than a camel V-neck sweater, or grey polo-neck? Wear either under a sleek trouser suit à la Lauren Hutton or Katharine Hepburn, or over a dress to give the illusion of a two-piece outfit. Alternatively, dress it down with denim. The adaptability of these knitted classics is the key and



ABOVE: Pale grey turtleneck sweater, £49.99, Kookai, branches nationwide (0171-937 4411). Blue bias-cut long skirt, £29.99, Top Shop, branches nationwide (0171-291 2351)

affords them worth beyond what may appear to be rather high price-tags. They are worth it because they are hardworking. If cared for correctly, they will last for many years. Established cashmere labels such as N. Peal and Ballantyne operate after-sales services, cleaning and redressing their customers' favourite purchases for a nominal charge. There is also the Cashmere Clinic in London, a hospital for the poorly pullover, which provides a specialist washing treatment to restore shape and texture, a full remodelling service and even alterations and repairs. The clinic also operates a postal service.

"For most people, cashmere is considered a luxury purchase," a spokesman says. "However, the correct care and maintenance of cashmere is a necessity, not a luxury." Although the price of cashmere continues to rise each season, manufacturers are doing their best to keep the consumer happy. N. Peal will not be raising the price tags on its spring merchandise, and Ballantyne has increased the retail price of its garments only very slightly. During the sales there are some fantastic reductions on every variety. Jaeger has reduced its knits by up to 40 per cent. Casual styles at Austin Reed are half-price. House of

Fraser has Cool Wool knitwear for a third off while Pringle offers roll-neck cashmere sweaters for £125 (down from £180), or the same in lambswool for £45 (from £77.50). A cashmere crewneck sweater at The Scotch House is now £129, down from £179. The prices of the little angora mix twinsets by Dorothy Perkins are a real steal. The really great thing about knitwear is that it now works as an option after dark. The American designers love this look. New Yorker Isaac Mizrahi often features what he calls a "sweater set" (short-sleeve sweater and matching cardigan) worn with a voluminous

ballgown skirt in silk taffeta or satin; this season Bill Blass showed a sleeveless polo-neck sweater with a sequin column skirt. A sweater worn with a swanky skirt makes an easy choice for evening. Camel is a perfect match for gold, while grey works best with silver or midnight blue. The look can

also add a little glamour when simply entertaining friends at home. Although the image of such standard knitted styles may at first appear a touch worthy and dull, this is definitely their moment to shine. Cashmere Clinic is at 11 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (0171-584 9800).

TOP: Camel round-neck short-sleeve top, £115, Aquascutum (0800 282922). Gold organza skirt, £850, Isabel Kirstensen, 33 Beauchamp Place, SW3 (0171-589 1798). Cream ballet pumps, £85.50, Russell & Bromley, selected branches, 24-25 New Bond St, W1 (0171-629 6903). LEFT ABOVE: Camel V-neck sweater, £155, The Scotch House, 2 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-581 2151). Gold lace skirt, £825, Liberty, Regent St, W1 (0171-734 1234). RIGHT ABOVE: Pale grey cardigan, £24.99, rib sweater, £19.99, both from Dorothy Perkins, selected branches (0171-291 2804). Grey silk skirt, £295, Aquascutum (0800 282922). Photographs by IAIN R. WEBB. Make-up by Jo Karsberg. Hair by James Dodds. Prices and availability may vary because of sales.

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Sexual harassment - the price of speaking out

Women who took their employers to court talk to Julia Llewellyn Smith

WHEN Joanne Milne asked for a day off work to go for a hospital check-up, she was told that she probably had cervical cancer because she slept around so much. When she gave a sales presentation, a colleague told her that nobody was listening because everybody was too busy looking at her bottom. When she complained, she was told that she was a feminist with a chip on her shoulder.

Eventually, Miss Milne, 27, had no choice but to resign from her job at Andegauge, an oil-related service company in Aberdeen. Six weeks later, she filed a claim for sex discrimination.

Next Monday in a *Cutting Edge* documentary on Channel 4, Miss Milne talks about how the final straw came when Andegauge offered her a promotion running the company's American office, but with no increase in salary. When she pointed out that she would be earning far less than the man she was replacing, her bosses told her that her arrogance was breathtaking and that she was earning good money for a girl her age.

"I was told that the firm only hired women because they were cheap, but there were three problems: women got pregnant, had women's troubles and cried when they had their arses kicked."

On one occasion a senior manager said that Miss Milne was a slut who probably had AIDS. He would blow cigarette smoke in her face and flick sweat at her after he had been to the gym.

Two months later, Miss Milne took Andegauge (who declined to comment to Channel 4) to tribunal. She settled for £6,400. "I would have preferred to have fought the case and won," she says.

But the woman who said she would be my witness dropped out, so in the end it was my word against theirs."

Sexual harassment, according to the Equal Opportunities Commission, is defined as any unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature; this can take many forms, including comments about a woman's sex life, or requests for sexual favours.

If sexual harassment makes



Harassment is defined as any unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature: would a man suggest discussing promotion over dinner to a male employee?



Four women who have been on the receiving end of unwanted behaviour: Kimberley Copley, Nicky Wicks, Sandra Valentine and Joanne Milne

a person's working life so unbearable that they are forced to leave their job, then they may be able to complain under the Sex Discrimination Act. The first case of sex discrimination in Britain was brought to tribunal ten years ago. Since then, tribunals have heard more than 300 cases, the vast majority brought by women. Many more have been settled out of court.

To date, the highest award for sexual discrimination has

been £34,000. Such sums have prompted sceptics to suggest that the reason more and more women are using the legal system to protest at their treatment has less to do with their suffering and more with the chance to earn a quick buck.

It is a view which angers Karen D'Rozario of the North Kensington Law Centre, who says that most women go to a tribunal only as a last resort. The wait between filing a

complaint and the hearing can be more than two years, and giving evidence can be extremely unpleasant. "I try to be optimistic, but I never leave my clients in any doubt about how difficult it can be. I am not sure I could go through with it myself. You can be torn apart in a courtroom."

Nine out of ten of Ms D'Rozario's clients' claims are settled out of court. "I always try to settle because these cases can be so difficult to prove. Most large companies will go to extraordinary lengths to settle to avoid bad publicity."

To stand a chance of winning a discrimination case, the complainant should keep a diary and tell somebody close

to work or outside what is going on. "It is very important that you find his actions offensive," says Ms D'Rozario. "He may genuinely not realise he is upsetting you."

Even after a successful case, complainants can find it very difficult to find a new job.

Miss Milne, who now works for another oil company, says: "When I went to interviews and people asked me why I had left my last job, I was honest. I could see them thinking 'Oh! Well! Then I wouldn't get to the second interview.'"

Sandra Valentine was the only woman pilot with Airtours International airline. Last year, her case received wide coverage when she took the company to tribunal, alleging among other things that a captain had apologised to passengers for having a female first officer, saying: "We have them at the front these days, as well as at the back, so don't blame me." Airtours denied all allegations. After settling with Airtours, Ms Valentine said: "I have filled in more than 100 job application forms in the last two years and

for most of them I wasn't even asked for an interview. People see my name, remember the case and that's it."

Nicky Wicks was 17 when she was harassed by the manager of Juicyfruits green-grocers in Redditch, where she worked as an assistant. "On a couple of occasions, he pushed me up against the wall and started rubbing himself against me and tried to fondle my breasts. I said 'If you touch me again, I'll slap you,' but he just laughed at me."

Ms Wicks took her boss to tribunal and was awarded damages of £7,000, but she has not worked since. The case has affected her in other ways. "I can't get a boyfriend. I'm scared of what he might do to me. If I'm watching television and something nasty happens to a girl, I freak. When a bloke touches me I go crazy. I used to be outgoing and bouncy, now I only go places with my Mum and Dad."

Kimberley Copley, 30, who worked as a shop floor manager in a Leeds for company, went to tribunal last year, alleging that her boss had persistently asked her to have an affair with him. She lost her case and is appealing. "It's taken a lot of self confidence away from me, because I thought I was a very strong person," she says. "It's made me very scared to look for another job."

Nonetheless, Ms Wicks has no regrets. "I just don't want to let another girl go through what I had to," she says. Others, however, feel differently. After Ms Valentine agreed a settlement of around £50,000 with Airtours, she said that no amount of money could compensate for what she had been through, and her career was in tatters. "I knew I had to fight this injustice, but frankly... this whole ordeal has ruined my life."

● *Cutting Edge* is at 9pm on Monday January 15

The political handicap of a foreign father

Should Portillo have called himself Blyth, asks Giles Coren

I has not been a good year for poor old Michael Blyth. Only the other day Lord Hill-Norton called him a "little creep", and now Emma Nicholson has branded him a coward. It is back-to-the-wall time, and Blyth is going to have to show a bit of spirit.

That, at least, is how it might have looked if Michael Portillo's mother, and not his father, had been born a Spaniard.

Alas, it was the other way round. But how different things might have been if Michael had been able to thump his tub in front of a banner declaring a name like that. For attacks on a nationalist cut even deeper when the nationalist is Johnny Foreigner.

No right-wing hardliner expects to be loved, but Portillo has had to suffer an extra stigma. Detractors pronounce his name with rolling "r" and

silent "ll", and point to his olive complexion whenever he plays the nationalist card. The irony, of course, is twofold: it is hard to attack a man for being both racist and a greasy Spaniard.

Portillophobia works on two levels: good old Little England racism, espoused by people who would once have called him "dago", and the subtler critique that Portillo overcompensates by making nationalism and Europhobia his war cry.

Not that British parliamentarians are known for their appreciation of irony. In 1914 the First Sea Lord, Prince Louis of Battenberg, a British citizen who had served in the Royal Navy since 1868, was forced to resign because a "Battenberg could not be trusted to give his all against Jerry. He gave up his German

titles and changed the family name to Mountbatten. A good thing too, for how could his son Louis, the last Viceroy of India, have been called anything else?

Adolf Hitler also avoided a near miss that could have undermined his credibility. His illegitimate born father had been called Schickelgrüber, after his mother, but later adopted the more Aryan moniker from his presumptive father. This was lucky for Adolf, because "Heil, Schickelgrüber!" just doesn't have the same ring.

The negative appeal of foreign names has always been accepted by entertainers: Gracie, Danielovitch and Cansino could not have swept Hollywood like Gracie, Douglas and Hayworth. But, in politics, integrity precludes name changing.

Disraeli dropped the apostrophe from his name to avoid association with the insidious French, but still made Prime Minister with a foreign surname, largely by adopting the same tactics as Portillo: sitting on the Tory Right and championing imperialism.

But if Mr Portillo is inclined to dream of what might have been — of the great Michael Blyth who clamped down on immigration and shunned the EU — he might reflect on another famously uncompromising man: Arnold Schwarzenegger. A prospective US senator of blood-curdlingly right-wing convictions, he was advised, early in his career, to change his name. "Don't worry," he told them. "Schwarzenegger will sell." Whether or not "Portillo" will one day be written in lights, is all about nationalism.



Detractors roll the "r" in Portillo

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£100,000 or more	Annually	6.50	4.87	£25,000 or more	Annually	5.45	4.09
£25,000-£99,999	Annually	6.00	4.50	£10,000-£24,999	Annually	5.10	3.82
£10,000-£24,999	Annually	5.60	4.20	£2,500-£9,999	Annually	4.90	3.67
£100,000 or more	Monthly	6.31**	4.74	£25,000 or more	Monthly	5.32**	3.99
£25,000-£99,999	Monthly	5.84**	4.38	£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	4.98**	3.74
£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	5.46**	4.10	£2,500-£9,999	Monthly	4.79**	3.59
C&G Instant Term Accounts				C&G Instant Term Accounts			
Including accounts formerly known as Gold Deposit				Including accounts formerly known as Gold Deposit			
£25,000 or more	Annually	5.85	4.39	£100,000 or more	Annually	5.95	4.46
£10,000-£24,999	Annually	5.30	3.97	£25,000-£99,999	Annually	5.45	4.09
£2,500-£9,999	Annually	5.70**	4.27	£10,000-£24,999	Annually	5.10	3.82
£100,000 or more	Monthly	5.17**	3.88	£2,500-£9,999	Annually	4.90	3.67
C&G Investment Accounts				C&G Investment Accounts			
Including accounts formerly known as Gold Deposit				Including accounts formerly known as Gold Deposit			
£100 or more	Annually	1.00	0.75	£100,000 or more	Monthly	5.79**	4.35
				£25,000-£99,999	Monthly	5.32**	3.99
				£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	4.98**	3.74
				£2,500-£9,999	Monthly	4.79**	3.59

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INSIDE SECTION 2

Gristly times at the Garden: can the Royal Opera House survive the mounting crisis over its funding and future?

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Massacre of China's innocents

Peking has plumbed new depths, says Jonathan Mirsky

It is hard, after the decades of Communist rule in China, to say "this is the worst". But that is what one can say about the deaths of thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, of infants under the lethal control of the Chinese State in its orphanages.

For this to be the worst, it would have to exceed the killing of hundreds of thousands of landlords in the 1950s; the purging of half a million "rightists", including many of the country's leading intellectuals; the great killings and destruction of the Cultural Revolution between 1966 and 1976; the rape of Tibet; the Tiananmen Square killings and the following persecution; and the endemic violation of the rights of women and dissidents, both as individuals and in groups.

Like many other journalists, I have been in China watching these depredations, but always of course from a protected vantage point, where the worst that could happen was a police roughing up, a menacing interrogation or, at most, expulsion and banishment.

But the mortality figures for Chinese orphanages, which are the most disgusting anywhere ever, worse even than Romania, are the greatest self-inflicted moral blow for the Communist Party, because the victims were — and are — not only innocent but wholly defenceless.

Intellectuals, after all, have but to grovel, shut up, or betray their friends and colleagues to save themselves. The landlords at least understood their fate. Tibetans need only surrender and accept Chinese rule. Dissidents can keep their views to themselves. During the Cultural Revolution, vigorously shouting enthusiasm for Chairman Mao ensured safety (unless the tide turned against one's faction), and after Mao's death the enthusiasts could claim, as millions did, that "everyone was doing it" — which might include the torture and killing of neighbours and co-workers. And when all else was lost, there was always suicide, the final refuge.

But the female infants, a month old and in adequate health, who were deliberately starved or frozen to death, or the infant with a hare lip who suffered the same fate, could know only the agonies of starvation, which causes the victims, in extremis, to try to eat their own hands. We know of this because the full medical records are provided in the Human Rights Watch report *Death by Default: A Policy of Fatal Neglect in China's State Orphanages*.

Why, after all, were these thousands, innocent and harmless as they were, pushed towards agonising death by a State which in 1991 signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child? Not because they were counter-revolutionaries, black hands, splittists, bourgeois liberals, or any of the other categories labelled criminal by the Party over the past 50 years. There are two reasons: they were female, in a society which traditionally prefers males, or

they were "less than perfect", meaning that under China's eugenic law, which harks back to the Nazi period, the handicapped, in body or mind, must not breed.

There is also the one-child family policy, which puts pressure on parents, even those who might now win permission to try for a second child, to rid themselves of female or hare-lipped children, frequently by abandoning them.

The children then come under the care of the State, which in Shanghai might mean the celebrated model orphanage, in which for five years, the report charges, up to 90 per cent of the infants died. The national mortality figures show orphan mortality running at about 50 per cent of those admitted, with death usually coming within a few months of admission. As the report says, "only the luckiest rather than the fittest can have any hope of survival".

Apart from the ultimate physical handicap of being female, the medical records show that most of the babies admitted are healthy, and even those who are diagnosed (often bogusly) as mentally subnormal or feeble-minded or hare-lipped would not die if given even casual medical care.

Peking has dismissed the entire report as false, the documents as forgeries, and the major informant, a doctor who has fled abroad, as a poorly qualified malcontent. The charge of forgery presumably includes the full report, of which we have the text, by the official Shanghai body which condemned the orphanage and its director, who was charged with the rape of older girls under his care.

This director attempted to flee China and was brought back by the police after these charges, but has now been promoted. Those who signed the report have been politically destroyed, and the man who engineered the cover-up, Shanghai's party secretary, Wu Bangguo, has been elevated to the Politburo, together with Huang Ju, the city's Mayor.

Some people have argued that these revelations will undermine foreign charity aid to Chinese orphanages. But what kind of help can charities offer in a country which punishes those who strive to secure justice for the most helpless?

China is not immune to world criticism, nor to moral outrage. It is reported to be trying to moderate the atrocities in the orphanages, and the Shanghai People's Council has already, at considerable political risk, demanded reform. Indeed, it was one of the council's members, who is also a member of the Shanghai Academy of Sciences, who condemned the cover-up. "Why are they trying to lay down this camouflage screen?" he asked. "Are they trying to say that Shanghai's death rates aren't high enough? If so, it's just like Hitler trying to achieve the superior race."



THE DYING ROOM

A selective memory

Allowing schools to sift pupils means returning to a discredited system

Fifteen per cent. Sweet fifteen, magic fifteen. That is the new government limit on how many 11-year-olds a state school can "choose" to admit at its own discretion, including parental interview. The Cabinet apparently feels 15 per cent is about right. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, is comfortable with 15. It used to be 10, which seemed small. Her burgeoning statisticians have calculated that 15 is more than 10 but less than 20, which might have been too much. Fifteen meets Downing Street's test of Aristotelian excellence in modern government. It "opens clear blue water" between Tories and Labour.

The Government's secondary school policy is now like a Kipling *Just So* story. Implausible causes lead to undeniable, but rather unpleasant, conclusions. The policy whirls and twirls its way round Whitehall. It does little dances and stands on its head. John Major makes speeches that infuriate Gillian Shephard. Mrs Shephard makes decisions that infuriate John Major. She sets up a committee to promote plain English, then she talks double Dutch. Nothing is quite as it seems.

Mr Major appears to believe that his electoral best interest lies in reverting to a system in which children are channelled at 11 into a two-part secondary system. We can argue names and pack-drill, but we know what we are talking about. For ten years the Government has been trying to reinvent the grammar schools by means of assisted places, city technology colleges, grant-maintained schools, even "compulsorily opted-out" church schools. By hook or crook, ministers want roughly a quarter of parents (those famous Tory floaters) to be given a leg-up out of the educational swamp. The old glories must return, the old regiments be restored their colour. Labour voters will have to send their children to secondary moderns, along with immigrants and rejects. Come the election, the chosen ones, the selected, will fall weeping in gratitude on Mr Major's shoulder. They will murmur, *semper fidelis*. That is the policy.

I scarcely know where to begin. The concept of 15 per cent selection by discretionary interview is almost meaningless. At present parents apply to schools and some 90 per cent of them are satisfied with the place offered. There is an obvious school for their area. Most local children go

to it, or move house to go to another, which is their right. Argument may occur at geographical boundaries and where local authorities try to balance the intake of ability for different schools. Here schools negotiate with parents. Where parents do not like the outcome — which almost invariably means being refused the "best" school — they can appeal.

The Tories have made a song and dance about this appeal. As a result, 46,000 parents appealed against offers of places for last year, but only 13,000 won. Appeals have risen 120 per cent in five years and are still rising.

The Government wants to get rid of a million surplus secondary places in England and Wales, and must use spare capacity where it can. It cannot afford to let parents choose. More to the point, already popular schools have indicated that they cannot handle and do not want open enrolment. Good schools are under pressure to concede ever tighter selection, encouraged by the national league tables. Selection means better pupils, better staff, ultimately more money. Why beat about the bush? Nothing is as riddled with status as education. In the public sector, there is no "choice" of school. Every parent knows that there is the best school, and then the rest.

The question is whether public policy should seek to counteract the schools pecking order, or to reinforce it. The new selection policy is essentially a reinforcing. By definition it applies only to a school that has more applicants than it wants to take: selection implies rejection. In the past, popular schools were induced to spread their benefits over a wide ability range. That was the comprehensive principle. Now, an oversubscribed school is being told that it can shrink its "comprehensive" intake by 15 per cent and fill these places with likely high-flyers, selected by internal examination or interview. The point of this social engineering — ask anyone who knows schools — is to help already successful schools to

move "upmarket" and eventually to opt for the Government's grant-maintained sector.

Mr Major on Sunday and Mrs Shephard on Monday denied that this was a return to the 11-plus "by the back door". This is true only insofar as they dare not go the whole way. But why not leave popular schools to select 100 per cent of their intake? What is this magic 15 per cent? The answer is that 100 per cent would have made a mockery of the previous policy of parental choice. It would also "alter the character of a school" and so possibly incur litigation. It would end any pretence that the policy is not reactionary.

Sooner or later, the only fair conclusion to this policy is a re-establishment of the formal apparatus of 11-plus examination, as prior to 1965. This already exists in embryo in the Government's national testing regime. But the 11-plus was a test of pupil aptitude, not achievement. It was supposed to be culturally neutral, a state-of-the-art intelligence assessment. It told a primary school which "sort" of secondary school would be best for a child. The theory was that since it was culturally neutral, so too would be the schools that the test chose. Grammar, modern and technical would all enjoy "parity of esteem". Status being what it is, it took no time for the "pass" schools to be regarded as good and the fail ones as bad.

As Margaret Thatcher once said of socialism, never was a political experiment so thoroughly tried, tested and proved to be rotten. Attachment to the 11-plus cost the Tories the 1964 election. But at least the 11-plus was crudely fair. Mrs Shephard's 15 per cent ghetto is blatantly unfair. It is a way of enabling already popular schools to make themselves yet more desirable, of giving middle-class parents a chance of getting their children into schools from which comprehensive criteria might exclude them. As with the old 11-plus, primary schools

Simon Jenkins

Alan Coren



■ The monster lobster: should we cherish it or eat it?

To those who weep for our divided nation, I bring, I fear, grim news. You ain't wept nothing yet. A smart move, if you care about that shirt, would be to hold a pocket-handkerchief before your streaming eyes. Yes, like the Walrus. For this is not a dissimilar tale, and its nub is a not dissimilar wedge, which will very soon cleave our nation into not dissimilar halves, along what might be called the crustacean fault-line.

Not an oyster, this time, but a lobster; nor any old lobster, either, but a singularly old lobster, called Neptune. He was called it by Mr Quarrens of the Weymouth SeaLife Centre. In whose aquarium Neptune now looms, judged flatter by divers who found him while cleaning up Portland naval base. Neptune is the biggest lobster anybody has ever seen. He is ten times the weight of the usual specimen, and his claws are three times the size of Frank Bruno's fists. Neptune, in short, does not look like something Jonathan Meades would order from Raymond Blanc, he looks like something Saddam Hussein would order from Matrix Churchill.

And the question which is about to divide us all is, of course: what is to be done with him? Shall we cherish him, or eat him? It is as fraught as any yet asked in the forward trenches of the Animal Liberation Front, for the man-lobester interface is unique in being literally that: should you fancy a spot of lobster, your waiter will invite you to address your face to the glass of the restaurant tank from which a number of other faces are peering out, and, after you have chosen the face you fancy, you will return to your table to be joined there a minute later by the waiter, who will thrust the lobster's face towards yours so that you may confirm that, though the face is not charming, it's the right face. He will then take it away again. The next time your two faces meet, one of them will have been bled.

This does not happen with anything else you order. Restaurants do not invite you to stroll their pig-pens, the chef's labrador does not run in from the kitchen with a selection of snail-flapping pheasants, waiters do not bring to your table unjugged hares to hop about for identification. Nothing else on the menu asks you to play God: only the lobster is chosen live, only the lobster is required to come by the table to cry, albeit mutely, "*Mortui te saluam*," before your de-terminated thumb consigns it to the bubbling pot.

After which, the relationship deteriorates yet further. This is not so much a meal as a post-mortem: having put on a special protective apron, the diner sets about the grisly dismembering with special tools, pliers, button-hooks, odd bodkins necessary for poking the last choice slivers from the thinnest broken bones. For nothing gets as wrecked as a lobster gets, and there is no more horrible restaurant sight than the brutally shattered detritus of the world's most meticulously constructed animal, piled on the plate of some fat glutton who, a few minutes earlier, condemned it to death.

Someone like me. Because I think I've missed something out here. Did I mention how terrific lobster tastes? This is how I know that while one half of the nation is desperate for Neptune to live and thrive, parade through Weymouth behind the Mayor (or, indeed, under him), appear on chat-shows, visit the sick, open supermarkets, all that, the other half is desperate to know what he tastes like. We in this half dream of three waiters carrying him to our table, we speculate on the special kit required to dismantle him, the socket-sets, the bolt-cutters, the crowbars, the odd spot of gelignite, perhaps, and, above all, like vinomaniacs teasing themselves to distraction with imaginings of pre-phyllloxera claret, we salivate uncontrollably at the thought of what 50 years of maturing might confer on the flavour of a *fillet d'honour* the size of a cricket bat.

How is this to be resolved? I have as little faith in the Government ("Lobster is most agreeable, oh yes, but...") as I have in the Opposition ("New Labour! New lobster!"), and I rather suspect that both the Church and the Windsors will be as divided on this as on everything else. I guess we shall just have to wait and see what's in it for Bill Clinton.

Chequered

NORMA MAJOR has been playing Cupid. The Prime Minister's wife was matchmaker in the forthcoming nuptials of the widowed photographer Mark Twistleton-Wykeham-Fiennes, whose actor son Ralph Fiennes sets female pulses racing across the land.

Mark "Twisters" Fiennes met his fiancée, Caroline Evans, at Chequers. She was there arranging flowers: he was taking pictures



Ralph: heart-throb

for Norma's book on the house, which will be published this year. "I suggested that flowers would embellish the rooms a little for the photographs, and Norma called up Caroline," says Twisters. Romance, like the rooms, blossomed.

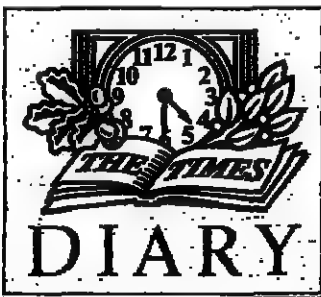
However, despite his debt to Norma and John, a question-mark hangs over whether they will be at the wedding. "I have got a lot to thank them for, but I am not sure how large the wedding is going to be," says Twisters. "There is a certain amount of disagreement over where it is going to be."

Ralph and his six siblings will attend. "But I shan't be doing the photographs and Caroline won't be doing the flowers," insists the groom.

B's Beeb

HIS CRITICS suggest that Bland by name means bland by nature. But the appointment yesterday of Sir Christopher B. to replace Marmaduke Hussey as chairman of the BBC is likely to mean menus more piquant for his fellow governors.

Sir Christopher's love of food is



legendary. He is a partner, with William Waldegrave's wife Caroline, in Pru Leith's Michelin-starred restaurant — just a bun's throw away from the BBC's Shepherd's Bush HQ in west London.

Leith is almost certain to become the BBC governors' canteen. "His appointment bodes well for the restaurant," admitted Caroline yesterday. "He does love his food."

Torn apart

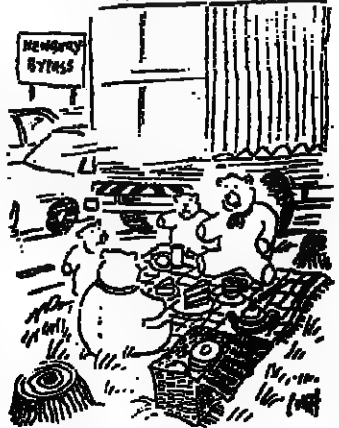
SOUTH AFRICA has been reveling in its Test victory, with television advertisements for the team showing African vultures picking over the bones of English cricketers. Complaints and flooding in, and Ali Bacher, managing director of South Africa's United Cricket Board, is appalled.

During the Rugby World Cup,

South African ads had Will Carling running scared from minders at Kensington Palace. His pants fell down in flight to reveal a tattoo on his buttock: "I love Diana."

The cricket equivalent with vultures has been described as "arrogant and insensitive" by Bacher. But Johann van Rhee of the South African Broadcasting Corporation said the ads simply reflected the drama and intrigue played out on the field.

● The Alpine folk of Klosters will be surrorying to an exhibition of the Prince of Wales's watercolours



"It's the big surprise they were all talking about"

later this month. But one of the mountain scenes may be unrecognisable — the Prince did it from memory because he was too busy skiing with his two sons to take time off to paint. "He painted it in his room with the curtains drawn," explains an aide, "and then checked it against the real thing in the morning."

Good alimony

AN INVENTORY of Henry VIII's possessions made at the time of his death is to be published for the first time. The document, as expansive as the bloated King himself, reveals that he was the richest monarch in British history.

By the end of his reign, he had an income of £250,000 a year, while his richest subject struggled by on £7,000. In today's terms, his fortune would have been upwards of £10 billion, according to my calculator — a merry cry from the Queen's estimated personal wealth of £450 million.

The inventory, which includes the world's largest collection of tablecloths, is being published next year by the Society of Antiquaries and a team of 25 scholars led by Dr David Starkey.

Around 90,000 separate items are listed, many acquired at the dissolution of the monasteries. "He



Henry: big I am

deployed more of the nation's wealth for his own purposes than any other monarch," says Starkey.

● The Duchess of York's old flame Paddy McNally has been pipped at the post trying to buy some farmland in Hampshire. Barbour's bobs can talk of little other than his interest in the £10 million Laverstoke estate near Stockbridge. Its huge house and park have now been sold, along with its farms. Paddy wanted one — but didn't get it.

P.H.S

مكتبة القرآن



BLAIR'S BIG PHRASE

Let them have stakes — but what does it all mean?

How are we to interpret Tony Blair's new call for a stakeholder society? Is it a New Labour phrase concealing Old Labour ideas? Is it a New Labour phrase representing genuine new ideas? Or is it a classic politician's phrase meaning little at all?

Few would deny the advantage of people feeling a closer identification with the institutions in which they work or on which they depend. The current welfare state — based on a huge pool of money to which taxpayers contribute in the hope of being supported one day by their children's generation — was the most collectivist experiment on which Britain has ever embarked. Yet people no longer feel that they have a personal stake in it.

Does Labour intend that, in order to create a more communal, more cohesive society, people will be forced to make a greater individual contribution to their own future? If so, this is an avenue worth exploring. There is talk of making saving compulsory for both the predicted and unforeseen contingencies of life, such as old age and unemployment. It is certainly easier to persuade people to accept the element of compulsion if they feel that they own the money that they are forced to save. Today's welfare state is in danger of breaking down because people in their twenties or thirties who are paying into it have no guarantee of receiving any money from a future government when they retire from work.

But this could be just one of the duties that a "stakeholder" government would require from the people. Fished out, such a philosophy could take the form of a contract between the State and the citizen, an attempt to end the "something-for-nothing" society. The State would undertake to protect citizens from destitution, provided that they had saved money when they could and were prepared to take opportunities for work or

training when these were offered. The State would agree to educate children, provided that parents undertook to play their part in that process.

Such a "tough but tender" approach has its attractions both to the new Left and the Right. But it is interesting that those political philosophers, such as John Gray and David Selbourne, who are keenest on civic responsibility and the rebuilding of a fragmented society, are leaning towards Labour. The Left used to be a repository of liberal dogma, which emphasised rights alone; but the new language of duty and responsibility is attracting followers who used to search for such a philosophy in the Tory party.

Compulsion has, of course, always been easier for the Left to adopt than the Right. Fear of a Labour party carrying new kinds of compulsion is certain to be strong. What about stakeholding in the private sector? Labour is keen on companies looking beyond their shareholders' interests to other groups that have a stake: such as employees, consumers and local communities. If such an approach is restricted to persuasion, it will be relatively harmless (though relatively ineffectual too). If, however, Margaret Beckett and her trade union friends hijack it, the result could be burdensome, expensive and unwieldy, with businesses handicapped in their attempts to keep themselves competitive. There are ample dangers as well as opportunities in Mr Blair's big phrase.

Then there is the perennial chance that it will prove to be more meaningless than dangerous. As a catch-all phrase, the stakeholder society does have a superficial appeal. As a policy prescription, it can be interpreted in different ways by different people. But as the message of a party that wants to address the sense of social malaise that is so widely felt, Mr Blair's words about civic duty also seem to be touching a chord.

CHINA'S OBLIGATIONS

Two tests of Peking's claims to respect its legal undertakings

Malcolm Rifkind has made a good start to his difficult mission this week in Hong Kong and Peking. He has learnt fast since last October's meeting in London with the Chinese Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen. Then, he gave the impression of a man who was new to the Hong Kong dossier. To the Foreign Secretary's obvious embarrassment, he was outmanoeuvred by Mr Qian. He appeared to be ready quietly to drop the vexed issue of the continued existence, after 1997, of the Hong Kong Legislative Council elected last September under the constitutional reforms introduced by Chris Patten.

For Hong Kong, the question whether this freely elected body will serve out its full term is no footnote: it goes to the heart of China's pledge to respect Hong Kong's autonomy. If China carries out its threat to dismantle the legislature in 1997, it will violate both the letter and the spirit of its legally binding undertaking, in the 1984 Sino-British Declaration, to leave Hong Kong's way of life intact, and its laws and institutions alone.

Mr Rifkind has now made clear, both in Hong Kong and Peking, that he understands the importance of this principle, without which Hong Kong's autonomy will be meaningless. In Peking, where yesterday's first day of meetings produced more agreements on Hong Kong than have been yielded by months of unproductive talks, he has urged China to think again, insisting that confidence in Hong Kong will depend on "representative institutions that enjoy the confidence and support of the people".

What gives this advice far greater weight than anything previously said by a British minister, however, is the assurance he gave Hong Kong's worried legislators before arriving in China. He assured them that Britain would have "a very special obligation" to take up "any abuses of human

rights" in Hong Kong after 1997, and that those who required asylum in Britain would have "a very, very powerful case". He promised that although Britain would cease to have "a physical power" in Hong Kong after 1997, it was determined to hold China to its undertakings of 1984 through "any legal or other avenues... available", including resort if need be to the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

This is new language, and could well be effective. Although the world court has no powers to enforce its judgments, the Chinese, who have always claimed that they have a clean record of abiding by their legal undertakings, would be enormously embarrassed to be brought before it. Their sensitivity to charges that they have breached international undertakings is evident in their reaction to the devastating Human Rights report on deaths in Chinese orphanages. China, which signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991, has gone to exceptional lengths to try to persuade the international press, without success, that the report is baseless. Mr Rifkind, to his credit, ignored veiled Chinese threats that to bring up this issue would wreck the visit, publicly stating that China's best way to prove that it had nothing to hide was "total transparency".

The promising start to Mr Rifkind's visit suggests that some at least of China's leaders may be waking up to the consequences of a collapse of confidence in Hong Kong. At the new year, China expressed hope for a "new dawn" in its relations with Britain. That no longer appears to mean, as before, merely that Peking expects Britain to make all the running. As a lawyer, Mr Rifkind is trained to make the best of tough cases. He has stepped up the pressure, and Peking is finally starting to surrender some chips.

DON'T SPARE THE VINEGAR

There's many a slip 'twixt the scaly foreign fish and the chip

Zander and chips are proposed as the latest British dish. The proposer is not a judge referring cannibalistically to Professor Michael Zander of the London School of Economics, but British Waterways, which wants to land two fish in one net by policing the canals and changing traditional eating habits.

As every minnow knows, zander is the pikeperch from Eastern Europe. It has fins like a perch, is as predatory as the pike, and was introduced into Britain as a game fish that gave a good run for its landing. Though not yet a household name, it occurs flatteringly in the angling press. Zander is said to have firm white flesh comparable to the sea bass. In Alsace, gourmets pursue *le sandre frit*, with chunky English fries.

Now, like other immigrants such as the grey squirrel, the minnow and the rhododendron, the zander is taking over. So Liverpool University is launching its zander project. By analysing the guts of zander, its scientists mean to find out whether the zander is upsetting the ecological balance. If only fish and chip shops could popularise zander and chips, they might give the processes of natural selection a shove.

Now that cod is becoming a rare luxury, zander is easier to catch. It cannot be poached by Spanish fishermen, unless they come sailing up the Middle Level Drain. However, it is bony. And zander is caught by solitary anglers, not factory fishermen. So its supply is as uncertain as angling itself.

And it is a fish of a different sort, with a silly name. So zander offends the conservatism of our diet. Fish and chips rather than roast beef or suet pudding are the characteristic British dish, and our most popular eating export. They provided a cheap and healthy mass diet for the factory workers of the Industrial Revolution. With regional variations, and in spite of modern competition from hamburgers, fried chicken and curry, fish and chips are still the native dish. In Britain fish still have to swim three times: first in the sea, then in batter, and finally with some sweet fizzy drink in the stomach. Because of hygienic nanny legislation, they may no longer come wrapped in newspaper. But they are still part of our eating heritage, which is wary of change.

In Britain, changes in diet tend to come from the gourmets downwards to the market, supermarket and chipper. Avocado pears and kiwi fruit were the dinner-party trophies of the one-up classes for a generation before they were accepted as normal British food. Although cheaper than petfood, pheasants and such game birds are still bought only with suspicion as being not quite us. If British Waterways really wants to persuade the British to eat zander and chips on Friday night, they will have to change the fish's name to something reassuring like canal cod or pond pike. And they still haven't a hope, for at least a generation — when the zander may be the only fish left.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Asylum subject to proper behaviour

From Sir Dennis Walters and Sir James Craig

Sir, Neither the British nor the Saudi Government has sought to deny Dr Muhammad al-Masari the privilege of asylum, i.e. a sheltered home in which to go peacefully about his business (Letters, January 6, 9).

The principal objection of both governments is to his use of that shelter to mount a campaign of propaganda and agitation calculated to damage their mutual good relations. A British government is perfectly right to be concerned about our strategic and commercial interests.

The second objection is that his group's campaign has descended to the depths of scurrilous personal abuse and even obscenity. There is plenty of written proof of that.

His image as a defender of human rights, democracy and liberal principles is ludicrous. His views are wholly reactionary. If you are for democracy and free speech you should be against Dr Masari. If you are against deception, hate-chopping and the segregation of women you should be against Dr Masari.

Let him retire to the Reading Room of the British Museum and write a reasoned, frank and polite account of his views. No one would disturb him — unless it were his present supporters.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS WALTERS
(Chairman),
JAMES CRAIG
(Vice-Chairman),
Middle East International,
21 Collingham Road, SW5.

From Mr A. I. Shenkman

Sir, Having been born in Moscow in 1923, I enjoyed the same status as my father, who was granted political asylum here in 1932, until my naturalisation in 1946. I had volunteered and served as an officer in an armoured-car regiment during the war.

Against this background I take issue with your leader's suggestion (January 5) on Dr Masari that there is a moral cost involved in his exclusion. Asylum is not a right but a privilege, and like all privileges it carries obligations. The main obligation is to do nothing which will either embarrass the host country or damage its interests, regardless of whether they be military, diplomatic, economic or of any other nature.

It is certainly not permissible to carry on a campaign against a state with which the host country has friendly relations and where it has very considerable commercial interests, regardless of whether that campaign consists of active terrorism or of propaganda against its present rulers.

Far from facing criticism, the Home Office is to be warmly congratulated on the elegance of the solution at which it has arrived: Solomon could have done no better.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
A. I. SHENKMAN,
Ivy Bank House, Newburgh, Fife,
January 9.

From Mr A. E. R. Ross

Sir, Dr Masari has, through his computer network, access to the world. It can be operated from any location in the world.

Let him depart to spread his views from some less comfortable headquarters, where commercial considerations are not involved and the protection of British security is not available, eg. Damascus or Baghdad.

Yours faithfully,
A. E. R. ROSS,
49 Humberstone Avenue,
New Waltham, Humberstone,
January 9.

Missing dates

From Mr Martin E. Simons

Sir, Professor Balchin (Letter, January 2) makes an important point by drawing attention to inadequate postmarking of Christmas mail. More serious is that ever more business mail is sent in pre-franked first-class envelopes or stamped first class by business, which is then not dated by the Post Office, so that it is impossible to establish when an item has been posted.

This reduces the number of complaints of late delivery and improves the apparent performance of the Royal Mail. More serious is that company registrars, the Inland Revenue and others cannot be blamed for untimely posting.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN E. SIMONS,
24 Cranard Avenue, SW15.

BT regulation

From the Director of Regulatory Affairs, BT

Sir, From the point of view of BT your leader, "King in the new" (January 4), woefully oversimplifies one of the most significant issues facing the company since privatisation in 1984.

What the Director-General of Telecommunications, Don Cruickshank, is proposing are sweeping and unprecedented new powers. These powers would effectively allow him to order BT to do anything he judged necessary or to stop doing anything he considered undesirable if he judged it anti-competitive. They would leave BT with no right of appeal to the courts or other disinterested bodies for impar-

Tory differences over centre ground

From Mr N. Strauss

Sir, Is it not rather absurd of Emma Nicholson to go on various radio programmes to tell us how "saddened" she is by her former colleagues' personal attacks, and how these show their lack of anything substantial to say on policy and their ungentlemanliness — and then to call Michael Portillo a cowardly gang-leader and a creep?

Yours faithfully,
N. STRAUSS,
39 Princes Drive,
Oxshott, Surrey,
January 9.

From the Reverend David J. D. Thornton

Sir, The late Sir Geoffrey Butler, in *The Tory Tradition* (first published in 1914 and reissued in 1957) reminded his readers of the origins of One-Nation Conservatism. He quoted the passage from Disraeli's novel, *Sybil*, or *The Two Nations*, about the chasm between the rich and the poor:

Two nations: between whom there is no intercourse and no sympathy; who are as ignorant of each other's habits, thoughts, and feelings as if they were dwellers in different zones, or inhabitants of different planets; who are formed by a different breeding, are fed by a different food, are ordered by different manners, and are not governed by the same laws... THE RICH AND THE POOR.

Butler commented: "Only in the doctrine that the interests of no one class must predominate did he [Disraeli] see hope of saving England."

As long as the modern Conservative Party forgets that doctrine, and as long as reports such as *A New Social*

Atlas of Britain (report, September 28, 1995) show a country split between rich and poor, no one for an instant will be fooled by Sir George Gardiner's claim ("The common ground is the high ground", January 4) that the Conservatives have not lost the centre ground of British politics.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID THORNTON,
The Vicarage,
Church Street,
Kelvedon, Colchester, Essex,
January 4.

From Mr Charles Hunter

Sir, Antony Walker (Letter, January 5) suggests that Ms Emma Nicholson's primary concern would appear "to be the 'right' of unmarried parents to plunder my income and savings".

The responsibility for the nurture of children goes beyond biological parents, and is shared by society. Children will come in time to support those now of working age, just as those of working age support the burgeoning retired section of the population.

In a democratic society, we delegate such responsibilities to government, as well as the power and duty to tax. Unmarried parents do not "plunder" Mr Walker's income and savings; the Government legitimately taxes them in the pursuit of democratically mandated goals, for which Mr Walker shares moral responsibility with every other voter in the land.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES HUNTER,
24 Hogarth House,
Erasmus Street, SW1,
January 5.

DTI policy 'to set the record straight'

From the President of the Board of Trade

Sir, Your report on the firm Rom Data in the Business section (January 5) suggests that Department of Trade and Industry ministers past and present have misled the House of Commons. This is not the case. May I explain the position?

My department, the DTI, unprompted by MPs, has been conducting its own investigation into its handling of the assistance given to the Rom Data Corporation Limited. In the course of that investigation it became apparent that certain answers given on March 2 and July 19, 1995, by DTI ministers in connection with Rom Data might have been based upon incorrect information.

Rather than let these answers lie uncorrected while the internal investigation was completed, once I became aware of the position I decided that I should at once warn Parliament of

this possibility. I did so in my reply of November 7, 1995. When the department's own investigation into this aspect of the case was complete and I was in a position to make a fuller reply, I again did so (on December 19, 1995). I also made clear at that time that I would report to the House again when all aspects of the department's own investigation had been completed. I will do so as soon as possible.

Although, as I have already made clear to Parliament, I regret the earlier errors in my department, it is important to understand that it has always been my policy to set the record straight and to do so voluntarily at the earliest opportunity. That is what has happened in this case.

Yours faithfully,
IAN LANG,
Department of Trade and Industry,
1 Victoria Street, SW1,
January 5.

Eastern initiatives

From the Chief Executive of the Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum

Sir, In the wake of the industrial restructuring that is taking place throughout Central and Eastern Europe and of the unpredictable new marketplace which this has created, young people in many of those countries face unprecedented risks of poverty and insecurity. We believe that a partnership between business, civic and community leaders can ease their predicament.

Over the past five years, in towns and cities from St Petersburg to Sofia, the Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum has orchestrated a number of multinational initiatives — the most recent was a conference which we convened in Potsdam last November — to stimulate action by business and civic

leaders, through economic regeneration and youth enterprise, to ease the transition into the harsh realities of democratic market economies.

We believe that the partnerships so forged build self-help and self-esteem in the post-Soviet era and that they help to tackle the real threat of disillusionment with market reform. If every foreign investor, public agency and civic leader engaged in business in Central and Eastern Europe made a commitment to this approach, the risks of political insecurity on our doorstep would be significantly diminished.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT DAVIES,
Chief Executive,
The Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum,
5 Cleveland Place, St James's, SW1,
January 8.

full and active life, for which I am very grateful.

Yours faithfully,
MURIEL CRECRAFT,
13 Weathercock Lane, Woburn Sands,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

From Dr Brian Barracrough

Sir, A measure of the mental suffering experienced by patients having renal dialysis is the suicide rate. This is raised some 14 times.

In contrast the suicide rate following successful renal transplantation is near to the average (*Suicide as an Outcome for Medical Disorders*, *Medicine*, 1994; 73, pp281-296).

Yours truly,
BRIAN BARRACROUGH,
48 Brookvale Road,
Southampton, Hampshire,
January 6.

that BT should pay part of the costs, not all as the director-general had proposed, and that the proportion which it was to pay should be fixed in advance by rules, not left to OfTel to fix as it thought fit.

The fact that BT retains such a large section of this highly competitive market 12 years after privatisation is due in no small part to the quality and vast range of services we provide, funded by over £20 billion of shareholders' investment, and to our call prices, which are now among the lowest in the world.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BUTLER,
Director, Regulatory Affairs, BT,
BT Centre, 81 Newgate Street, EC1,
January 4.

Due honours for academic merit

From Professor Graham Zellik

Sir, Judge Beddard (Letter, January 5) suggests that professors are over-represented in the New Year honours, with eight out of the 29 awards. I cannot agree.

He might have posed the same question in respect of the eight businessmen and industrialists (who actually include one of the professors) or the six for political service.

It must also be remembered that the knights bachelor exclude most civil servants and military personnel who, in Mr Major's reformed, classless, meritorious honours lists, retain a near monopoly of knighthoods in the various other orders of chivalry. Adding in these reduces the professorial proportion from just over a quarter to around one fifth. It would drop even further if one included all the barristers automatically knighted on appointment to the High Court bench.

In any case, the eight new professorial knights give some indication of the range of the contribution made by these in the universities to our national life — to medical and surgical practice and research, to science and engineering, to historical scholarship and to government service.

Judge Beddard should consider the overall contribution made to society by the staff of our universities in medical, scientific and engineering practice and research, in research and scholarship in the social sciences and humanities, in undergraduate and postgraduate education and training, in the training of nearly all our professionals, in managing our universities, in advising government, Parliament, political parties, industry, international organisations and the voluntary sector, in earning overseas income and in promoting Britain's reputation abroad.

Eight knighthoods, together with other awards, is surely far from excessive. I wish only that there were more material recognition by the Government of the value of our universities and those who work in them.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM ZELLIK
(Principal),
Queen Mary and Westfield College,
University of London,
London E4 4NS,
January 5.

Opening for Sussex

From Professor R. G. West, FRSS

Sir, PHS discusses the suggestion (January 4) that Roxgrove Man may have played cricket half a million years ago in Sussex.

It is worth recalling that Piltdown Man, also of Sussex, was associated with a large bone implement described by Reginald Smith in 1914, soon after its excavation, as looking like a part of a cricket bat (*Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society*, vol 71). Although this "bat" is now accepted as a forgery, it does seem that cricket plays a part in the archaeological cultural baggage of Sussex.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. WEST,
3a Woolfords Lane,
Great Shelford, Cambridge,
January 4.

Caught napping

From Mr Brian Wicks

Sir, The author H. E. Bates used to tell the story of a village cricket match in which he was playing when all the fielders threw up their hands with a unified shout of "Howzat!" The umpire shook his head sadly and said, rather surprisingly as he was the local gamekeeper, "Oh never seed it". His word stood.

It's a phrase modern umpires could adopt (reports, January 5).

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN WICKS,
137 Malmesbury Road,
Chippingham, Wiltshire,
January 5.

Egg or spring chicken

From Mrs Jane Inglis

Sir, You report ("Love and sex keep you looking young", later editions, January 2) a survey showing that people who make love twice a week with a loving partner are less prone to ageing and look up to 14 years younger than they really are.

Is it not probable that people who look 14 years younger than their actual age are more likely to have a loving partner with whom they make love twice a week?

Yours sincerely,
JANE INGLIS,
9 Oakroyd Avenue,
Potters Bar, Hertfordshire,
January 2.

Mobile menace

From Canon Peter Southwell-Sander

Sir, Steve Race (Letter, January 8) wonders if mobile phones in trains can be jammed. Has the time not come for the introduction of "No Talking" carriages to offer protection from all intrusive communicators?

Yours faithfully,
PETER SOUTHWELL-SANDER,
North House, Boreham Manor,
Church Road, Boreham, Essex,
January 8.

January 10, 1920

ON THIS DAY

Months of discussion about peace is described in The Times as a "Soviet businessmen in Paris trying to govern Europe to evolve some faint economic order post-war chaos", were coming to an end as resumed by diplomats

ear or two. To-day's meeting, which preceded by a private conversation an hour's duration between Lloyd George and M. Clemenceau, presided by Mr. Lloyd George, Attorney Law, Earl Curzon, Signor Francesco Sclafano, Mr. Wallace, American Ambassador in Paris, Mr. Matsuyama, Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Dutasta, French Ambassador, and other members. The first matter discussed to us to-morrow's ceremony. It was decided that first of all the delegates of the five chief Allied, and Assoc-

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Fact or fiction: it was speculated that the Bulger killers may have watched *Child's Play 3*, but children found the TV coverage more disturbing

Child's-eye view of horror

A new study suggests that children are not fooled by video nasties, says Alexandra Frean

Concerns about the effects of television on children are a recurrent theme of public debate. Yet it is an area in which children's voices are rarely heard. Too often parental and governmental anxiety has focused on the impact screen violence may have on young viewers' behaviour with little attention paid to children's own emotional responses to the moving image. David Buckingham, a lecturer in media studies at the University of London's Institute of Education, believes a more useful approach to understanding the role of television in children's lives is to ask children about their own responses to horror films, "weepies", soap operas and news bulletins and to discuss with them how they make sense of what they see. Mr Buckingham, a father of two boys aged five and nine, also believes it is important to understand how parents help or hinder their children's understanding of television.

In an attempt to throw new light on the issue, Mr Buckingham interviewed 72 children aged six to 15 about their television viewing. The result is a refreshing book, *Moving Images: Understanding Children's Emotional Responses to Television*, which is recommended reading for all media policymakers.

The children displayed a sophisticated understanding of many of the conventions of

television. Even the very youngest subjects knew that the families in *The Cosby Show* or *Roseanne* are not "real" and were able to recognise that programmes obeyed certain rules whereby things are easily resolved. Yet their interpretation of how realistic such programmes are also depended how they compared with their own family lives.

"A key factor to emerge was the way they reacted differently to fact and fiction," Mr Buckingham says. So much of the debate about television, particularly about the possible imitative effects of screen violence, focuses on fiction, such as horror films and thrillers. Mr Buckingham discovered, however, that news and documentaries often produced more profound reactions.

As part of the study he interviewed children who had seen *Child's Play 3*, the "video nasty" which some newspapers speculated may have influenced the child killers of James Bulger in 1993. Many of the children who had watched the 18-rated film appeared to be seasoned horror film viewers who found it "scary" in parts but also enjoyable. Much of their pleasure appeared to come from its jokey attitude to death. The children's reaction to

the media coverage of the Bulger case was quite different. Many said the press and television reports of the case had upset them a great deal: a number said they had cried or had been unable to sleep. In contrast to their view of *Child's Play*, the children repeatedly related the events to their own experience. Many argued, nevertheless, that it was important for the Bulger coverage to be shown, not least as a warning.

Mr Buckingham believes these responses raise important issues that media commentators have virtually ignored. If there are questions to be asked about screen violence, perhaps the starting point should be to what extent does news coverage enable children to understand what they are seeing. "Often we see decontextualised images of suffering in the news and it is questionable how far children can understand what they are seeing," he says.

One way of helping children to interpret what they see on television would be to integrate it into their education. "Media studies could be part of English lessons. English is the subject in schools that is most concerned with culture, but to narrow culture down to books is unrealistic. To pretend that television is not part

of our culture is not to equip kids to deal with the modern world," he says.

Parents also need education, he adds. Schools encourage parents to help their children to read at home. Mr Buckingham says, and they should take similar steps to get parents to take part in their children's television viewing.

"It is accepted that parents will sit down and read books with their children, not just to help them to read, but to talk to them about the stories and about life in general. Similar things could be achieved with television. If only it was given the same status."

There is a lot of cultural snobbery about television. Too often it is treated as a reward, a way of keeping kids quiet or as a focus of family battles over what programmes children should be allowed to watch," Mr Buckingham says.

A more positive approach to television, might pay off. "The therapeutic and cathartic experiences of television gained through the vicarious experience of watching somebody else's life, for example, might be more effective if children didn't just watch it but also talked about it with their parents," he says. Regulatory or censorship

We are our own worst censors

I wondered why I saw so few babies when I was in China in October. Last night's *Return to the Dying Rooms* on Channel 4 helped to explain.

The Chinese will undoubtedly be surprised at the bad press they have received for their public relations exercise in rebuttal — a tour of the Shanghai orphanage in question to show foreign journalists how happy, clean and well-treated the waifs there are — and, by logical extension, at all the other institutions for unwanted children throughout their vast country.

The Chinese must also be surprised that the British Foreign Office let the programme go out on the very day that Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, arrived in Peking. Surely Channel 4 might have been nudged into delaying it a week? The media are under better control in China.

But are our own dear authorities any less reluctant to do the truth in the national interest? Last week, also on Channel 4, *Guardian* journalist Maggie O'Kane suggested that the British and American military were so adept at censorship during the Gulf War that the journalists covering it were "harnessed like 2,000 beach donkeys and led through the sand to see what the British and US military wanted us to see in this nice clean war".

Her programme, *Riding the Storm*, upset me. Was it the subtitle, "How to tell lies and win wars", which made it sound as if O'Kane were reporting a great and original discovery — that in war, truth is the first casualty? Or was it her suggestion that the journalists in the Gulf had neither the wit nor the inclination to see through the official line and that we, the viewing public, were duped into believing that the war was a bloodless video game of smart bombs nearly disappearing down empty airshafts?

No, I think what really offended me was the assumption that this kind of suppression of information is confined to war. "War is fought in our name," she declared, "and no general or

politician has the right to stop us knowing the truth."

How very true, but not only on the battlefield. In our name, to give just one example, pregnant women prisoners have been handcuffed during labour. Thanks only to a smuggled ITN camera was the truth exposed.

In her programme, O'Kane produced some disturbing evidence that veterans of the Gulf War are suffering from a variety of severe illnesses caused by chemical weapons. It took four years of battling, she declared, to get the relevant medical evidence logged by the US Defence Department released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Only four years? She would have to battle a lot



BRENDA MADDOX

longer to get comparable data out of Whitehall. Rather than labouring the obvious — that people in power, the military especially, are very reluctant to say what they do with it — she would have done better to campaign against Britain's niggardly release of official information of all kinds.

According to the Campaign for Freedom of Information, even on matters as mundane as transport it will take the British citizen days to identify and weeks to collect — at prohibitive expense — information which in America can be obtained in hours for a pittance. (A demand for the public to have the right to know what goes on in all government agencies and quangos will be launched next Wednesday by the Campaign, the Guild of Editors, Article 19 and Liberty).

Censorship should be deplored, but in all its forms. "Where were the pictures?" O'Kane asked reprovingly,

after interviewing Iraqi soldiers who had seen their comrades buried alive by Allied tanks and burnt with napalm. "On the cutting-room floor" is the answer.

Nothing to do with official secrecy here. Britain's celebrated television "standards" do not favour pictures of mutilated body parts and bloated corpses. True, we are not shown the human consequences of war. But neither are we shown the human consequences of traffic accidents, in the widely-accepted interests of good taste.

And censorship is more widespread than that. We are all censors, a practice which sounds nice if you call it editing. Any version of events is a matter of selection. We say some of what we know; the rest we hold back in the interests of brevity, clarity or discretion.

Journalists above all know this. All practise self-censorship. When in Peking, I heard of aborted human fetuses being sold for soup. I believed it, the Chinese not being conspicuous wasters of protein.

But I could not check chapter and verse and the story seemed too sensational — and irrelevant: I write about media, don't I? I have reproached myself ever since.

So where does the scorn so liberally heaped by O'Kane in her programme belong? Not on war journalists for lacking courage. Nor on generals who do not spell out in advance their list of targets.

It belongs, rather, on all those who take the easy way out. Self-censors such as myself who ignore a story because it is too much trouble. Journalists who huddle together and agree what the story is before writing it. The public for shunning ugly reality on their screens and not pressing harder for official information.

One place beyond reproach is the Foreign Office. "You know we would never do that," said its spokesman this week, when I asked whether it had tried to persuade Channel 4 to delay its embarrassing programme until after the Rifkind visit. And I do know that. The BBC's own unpopularity in China is proof enough.

Bidding Auntie farewell

Marmaduke Hussey looks back over ten years as BBC chairman

In 1986 serious questions were being asked about the future of the BBC and the retention of its licence fee for the first time in its history. Major and public schisms emerging between the Governors and the management were apparent. Public confidence in the quality of our programmes was rattled by a series of setbacks, some of them in the courts. The atmosphere in the BBC itself reflected this. I found an organisation apprehensive, puzzled, hurt by public criticism, strangely isolated from the real world, but still held together by a rich vein of dedicated talent.

In my first week I decided that the BBC would have to fight very hard to preserve its privileged position, so my long-term objective could only be to deliver a BBC worthy to secure the new Charter without losing its main services and with continued public funding. That has been the single and sole motivation behind the policies that the governors have initiated and followed, and the appointments they have made.

In 1996 the position looks totally different. The position of the governors has been clarified and codified; they meet with management as joint boards to discuss major issues of policy and strategy; modern methods of management have been introduced of only in this country but throughout the world. Major investments have been made in news and docu-



Corporation men: John Birt, left, Director-General, and Marmaduke Hussey

mentary programmes: drama such as *Pride and Prejudice* demonstrate that the BBC remains the world's top provider of quality programmes. Our role as a standard-setter, with emphasis on quality and choice, is now accepted as a justification for the privilege of a universal licence fee.

The World Service, always one of our great strengths, is regarded as the world's leading international broadcaster. Recently we have started *Worldwide Television* and aim to be a major force in world broadcasting. In sharp contrast to the rest of the television industry, the BBC is now a net exporter of programmes but is a major national and international asset. It is also the greatest cultural organisation in the world, not just in the United Kingdom.

It has been a privilege to be

the governors have been affected by two able Directors-General, Michael Checkland and John Birt, and their boards of management.

I come from a generation that believes the BBC is one of the most important and responsible threads in the tapestry of our national life. We looked to the BBC always for high standards. It was, of course, a monopoly. When I joined from outside in 1986 it was apparent to me, though not to the BBC itself, that the increasing power of radio, television, satellite and cable posed huge threats to an organisation which is not just an important purveyor of programmes but is a major national and international asset. It is also the greatest cultural organisation in the world, not just in the United Kingdom.

It has been a privilege to be

one of many people helping to secure the future of this world-class institution. I believed fervently in the BBC and its qualities before I joined, and I believe as fervently in them today. But fresh challenges await, primarily to carve out a place in the new broadcasting scene and particularly to maintain and inspire the confidence and enthusiasm of a dedicated, brilliant staff, for whom I have the greatest admiration and affection. They, after all, are the BBC.

New challenges need new leaders and in February 1994 I told the Prime Minister that I would wish to retire when the Charter was agreed, and confirmed this decision with him in June 1995. So I leave the BBC in sound health with many happy memories, many friends, and waves of goodwill to the Corporation and its talented new chairman.

THE TIMES

ELIZABETH
BIOGRAPHY OF
THE MAJESTY THE QUEEN
BY SARAH BRADFORD

THERE'S NEVER BEEN A MORE REVEALING PORTRAIT.

From this Saturday in The Times read the exclusive serialisation of Sarah Bradford's new book on The Queen. With new access to original sources she builds up an intimate portrait of the monarch in her 70th year.

CHANGING TIMES

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

NEWS

Thatcher warns against lurch to left

Baroness Thatcher will tomorrow enter the battle over the Conservative Party's future with a warning that it cannot win by "lurching to the left".

In her Keith Joseph Memorial Lecture she will risk fuelling the party's internal feuding by declaring that Tories have not been as true to their principles as they might have been in the past few years. **Pages 1, 2**

Rebel holds 2,000 hostage in hospital

A Chechen fighter calling himself the "Lone Wolf" held about 2,000 people inside a hospital in the North Caucasian town of Kizlyar. A group led by Salman Raduyev, the son-in-law of the rebel president, shot two hostages and threatened to kill them all if Moscow did not pull out its troops. After dark shooting was heard on the streets near the hospital. **Page 1**

New BBC chairman

Sir Christopher Bland, the Tory millionaire and former chairman of London Weekend Television, was named as the BBC's new chairman. He will replace Marmaduke Hussey. **Page 1**

Sotheby inquiry

Sotheby's is carrying out an investigation into the £105,000 sale of a Baroque casket after a number of experts expressed concern that it was a fake. **Page 1**

Pop art

A mysterious bout of nostalgia for fading pop icons has gripped a hamlet and transformed it into a place of pilgrimage. **Page 3**

Gold smuggling case

A policewoman allegedly told her boyfriend that she was part of a £20 million gold smuggling operation, a court heard. She was also said to have described a trip to Belgium as providing a "change from tedious routine". **Page 3**

Protest victory

Preparation work for the Newbury bypass was abandoned for the day after protesters blockaded 400 security guards into their farmyard base. **Page 5**

£100,000 a year men

More than 250 consultants have broken through the £100,000-a-year pay barrier in the NHS. They are leaders in their fields who have been awarded the top A-plus merit award. **Page 6**

A fish called Zander under fire

Zander, a voracious fish terrorising canals, may shortly meet its match by being eaten with chips. Zanders are established in 100 miles of canals in the Midlands and are poised to spread through the inland waterway network. British Waterways wants to get rid of them because they wipe out varieties that coarse anglers love to catch. **Page 7**

Alzheimer study

Smoking and drinking may hasten the onset of Alzheimer's disease in some patients. But taking more than three drinks a day may delay onset in people who have a family history of it. **Page 7**

Policy condemned

Roy Hattersley called on Labour to immediately ditch its policy of all women shortlists following Monday's judgment that the scheme was illegal. **Page 8**

Main street rocket

Bosnian Serb gunners opened fire on Sarajevo striking at a tram with a rocket propelled grenade, killing one man, as it sped along the main avenue. **Page 9**

Orphan row

The Channel 4 documentary alleging abuse of Chinese orphans will not adversely affect Sino-British relations, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said in Peking. **Page 10**

Terrorist manhunt

Police in the Philippines have launched a manhunt for five Muslim terrorists for plotting to kill diplomats, including the British Ambassador. **Page 10**

White House anger

The White House lashed out at both a leading conservative columnist who had labelled Hillary Clinton a "congenital liar" and at the First Lady's chief Republican scourge. **Page 11**



Emma Nicholson with some of her new Liberal Democrat colleagues at the House of Commons yesterday. From left: Robert Maden, party president; Archy Kirkwood, chief whip; Menzies Campbell, the foreign affairs spokesman. **Page 1**

BUSINESS

Forté: The City believes that Granada's fresh offer for Forté, which adds a 47p a share special dividend, gives it a reasonable chance of victory. **Page 25**

Barings: Officials from the Serious Fraud Office may visit Singapore again after being offered access to vital papers relating to the collapse of Barings Futures. **Page 25**

House of Fraser: The group that includes Army & Navy and Dickens & Jones, suffered the ignominy of City analysts cutting their profit forecasts for the fourth time in less than two years. **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 20.3 to 3700.3. Sterling's index fell from 83.4 to 83.3 after a fall from \$1.5495 to \$1.5487 and from DM2.2324 to DM2.2304. **Page 28**

SPORT

Football: Roger Stanislaus, of Leyton Orient, became the first English player to test positive for a performance-enhancing drug after a game. **Page 48**

Rugby union: Wales selected five newcomers — the youngest, Leigh Davies, 19 — for the match against Italy in Cardiff. **Page 46**

Tennis: Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski gave British tennis a fillip in the build-up to the Australian Open with unexpected first-round victories at a tournament in Sydney. **Page 45**

Olympic Games: Proposals are under discussion to stage the Games of 2008 in Hyde Park, London, or in Dublin. The former is the more serious and realistic plan. **Page 45**

ARTS

Garden in disarray: The Royal Opera House, about to be the subject of a "fly-on-the-wall" BBC documentary series, is fighting for its life, says Rodney Milnes. **Page 33**

Mime times: London is preparing to welcome companies from around the world for an international mime festival. **Page 35**

On stage: *Favrite Nation*, at the Lyric Theatre, uncovers the strange personal lives of the group that founded the National Trust: *Damn Yankees*, meanwhile, is a revival of a musical about baseball. **Page 33**

Such a sad Lake: Uncharismatic principals hampered the English National Ballet's revival of *Swan Lake* at the Festival Hall this week. **Page 33**

FEATURES

Ageless ageing, day 3: The elixir of life: sex in the middle years: thanks for the memory: keeping your eye on the ball. **Pages 12-13**

Indecent proposals: What are the prospects for a woman who sues over sexual harassment? **Page 15**

FASHION
Wool mix and match: What could be more useful than a camel V-neck sweater or grey polo-neck? Join R. Webb on bargains. **Page 14**

HOME
Gazumpers locked out: Smart buyers have found a way to avoid a traditional peril. **Page 21**

MEDIA
Child's play: Children as young as six have been examined to see if they can tell the difference between fiction and reality in video games and the news. **Page 23**

THE PAPERS
It is a bit of an image problem for Mr Branson. Up in the sky he's one of those magnificent men in their flying machines. Down on the ground, he's a sore loser, complaining about the rules. **Page 23**

There is much to be sorted out by Congress and the independent counsel. And the first lady needs to help reconcile the inconsistencies. **Page 23**

Asylum: Toxic defections: knight-hoods for professors. **Page 17**



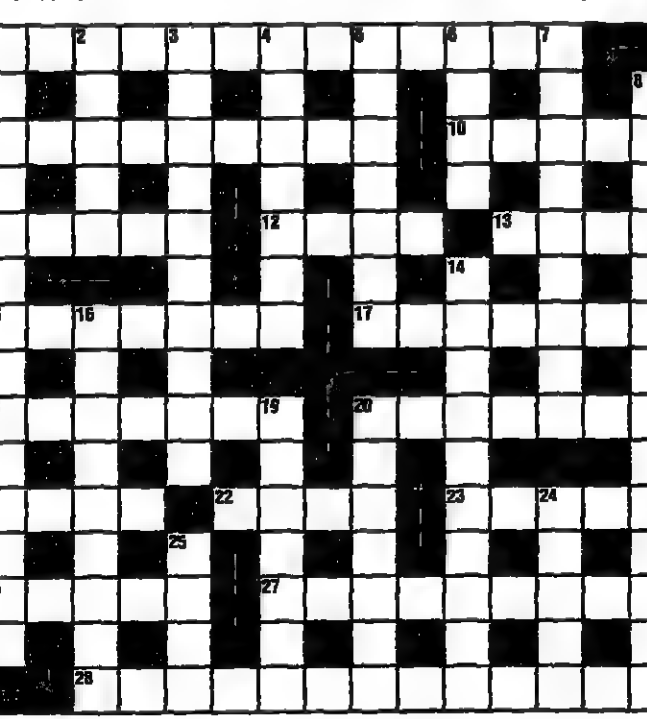
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS
Basest instinct: Geoff Brown on the sorry saga of *Showgirls*

BOOKS
Julian Barnes's *Cross Channel*, linked tales with a French theme

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,060



ACROSS

- Brave exploit granted lines in epic verse (6,7).
- Soldiers with a talent for lying (9).
- Period of play at start of the Open (5).
- In the limit, expect to accept severe discomfit in the country (5).
- Off course, horse is in appropriate setting for Stubbs, say (7).
- Three-dimensional model of satellite put into production (7).
- Craft politician discovered in initially inspecting city books (7).
- Put down witicism in formal document (7).
- Take part in coup — once it's over! (4).

DOWN

- Graves, perhaps English, found after victory (4).
- Encouragement to jog (5).
- Wrong judgment brings execution of troublesome person (5).
- Rapid rise changes into decay (9).
- Mum and wife, perhaps? Not part of US firm's workforce (6,7).
- Freedom among Arabs, for example — still in this area (5,9).
- These mountains make one dizzy (5).
- Unimportant stuff after one gets married (10).
- Moderately revolutionary new play (7).
- Wild man — due to incomplete evolution (7).
- Part of fingerprint found — the game's up! (4).
- Cutting short tendency to sing (9).
- Crusade leader with model servant once (8,6).
- Appropriate point accepted by leader (10).
- Get note from old doctor to obtain old drink (9).
- Groom, taught to embroider (5,2).
- Empty watercourse (5).
- Examination in United States (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,059

KICKBACK IMAGES
B I L L E U E
Y E A R A L L E N D U P
S P A P O A T I T
O N T H E S P O T G O O S E
A S E H E T
B U M B L E D E R R A T A
U E E I P
S N A T H S T E A M E R
B I O O P E
R I F L E W A T C H W O R D
A E R D H E R A
C A S T I G A T E T A I N T
E T I N H A S O
D R E D G E R E A P P E A R

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 081 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	7/12
East of London	7/12
West of London	7/12
South East	7/12
South West	7/12
West Midlands	7/12
East Midlands	7/12
North East	7/12
North West	7/12
Yorkshire	7/12
East of England	7/12
West of England	7/12
Devon & Cornwall	7/12
Wales	7/12
Scotland	7/12
Channel Islands	7/12
Islands	7/12

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic news information, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 401 followed by the appropriate code.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Greater London 13C (55F); lowest day temp: Inverness 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Oxford, 1.26in; highest sunshine: Jersey, 4.9hrs.

FORECAST

General: after a misty start England and Wales will have a bright day with some sunshine in places. Scattered showers are expected in the west and a few may push further inland and along the south coast. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a bright day once any mist and fog patches have cleared. Eastern and central areas will remain largely dry, with scattered showers expected mainly in the west. The southerly wind will be fairly brisk in the north.

AROUND BRITAIN

NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: scattered showers, brighter spells. Wind south, light to moderate. Max 8C (46F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:

bright spells, mainly dry. Wind south, mainly light. Max 9C (48F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney:

bright spells, mainly dry. Wind south, light to moderate. Max 8C (46F).

Shetland:

cloudy, patchy drizzle in places. Wind south, fresh to strong. Max 8C (46F).

Outlook:

rain on Thursday with brighter, showery weather to follow on Friday.

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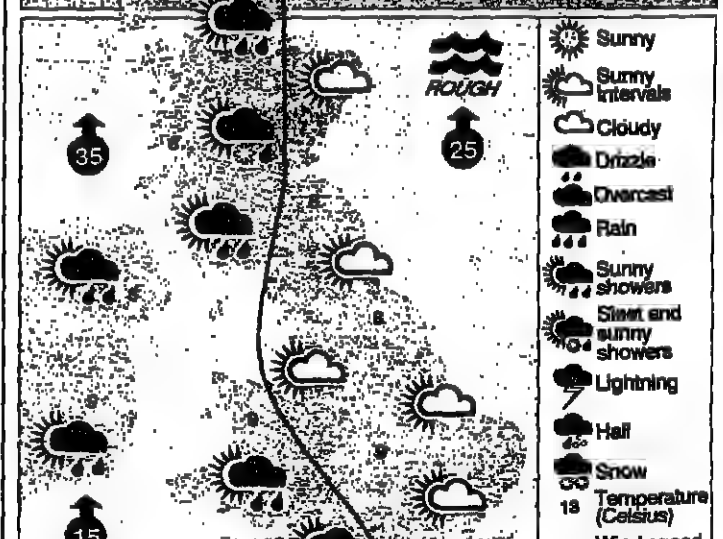
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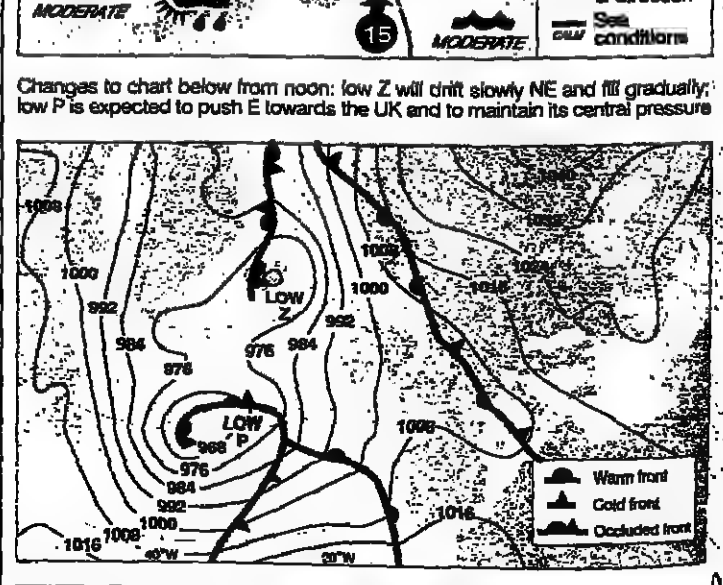
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NOON TODAY



CHANGES TO CHART BELOW FROM NOON: LOW Z WILL DRIFT SLOWLY NE AND FILL GRADUALLY; LOW P IS EXPECTED TO PUSH E TOWARDS THE UK AND TO MAINTAIN ITS CENTRAL PRESSURE



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4:02	6:07	4:34	6:03	London	4:02	6:07	4:34	6:03
Avonmouth	3:36	5:40	4:07	5:42	Avonmouth	3:36	5:40	4:07	5:42
Belfast	1:15	3:16	1:33	3:53	Belfast	1:15	3:16	1:33	3:53
Cardiff	9:16	11:37	9:35	10:51	Cardiff	9:16	11:37	9:35	10:51
Devonport	9:16	11:37	9:35	10:51	Devonport	9:16	11:37	9:35	10:51
Dover	1:19	3:41	1:27	3:20	Dover	1:19	3:41	1:27	3:20
Falmouth	7:28	9:35	7:16	9:30	Falmouth	7:28	9:35	7:16	9:30
Glasgow	3:28	4:19	3:37	4:09	Glasgow	3:28	4:19	3:37	4:09
Harwich	2:30	3:02	2:23	3:06	Harwich	2:30	3:02	2:23	3:06
Hullhead	0:32	1:12	0:51	1:26	Hullhead	0:32	1:12	0:51	1:26
Hull	8:46	9:55	8:42	9:55	Hull	8:46	9:55	8:42	9:55
King's Lynn	8:21	9:55	8:27	9:55	King's Lynn	8:21	9:55	8:27	9:55

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises	Sun sets	London 4.13 pm to 8.03 am	Edinburgh 4.01 pm to 8.03 am	Manchester 4.11 pm to 8.21 am	Panama 4.40 pm to 8.16 am
8.46 am	4.13 pm				
8.46 am	4.13 pm				

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Granada back v £3.8bm

car pay deals 'no inflation threat'

Sainsbury to u

ARTS 33-35



Happy days aren't here again at the Royal Opera House

PROPERTY 36



Retail is heading a recovery in the commercial sector

SPORT 43-48



Young blood leads Wales into new era

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
Pages 46, 47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10 1996

Granada hits back with £3.8bn bid

By ERIC REGULY

GRANADA punched back yesterday with a revised offer for Forte that the City predicts will give it a better than even chance of winning the hotels and restaurants group.

Granada's final offer values Forte at £3.8 billion, about £500 million more than its opening bid in November. The basic offer remains unchanged, but the company added a special cash dividend of 47p net per share that will come out of Forte's financial resources if the bid succeeds.

The new shares and cash offer, including the special dividend, yesterday valued each Forte share at 373.3p, rising to 385p for shareholders entitled to tax credits, against Forte's closing price on Monday of 344p. The all-cash alternative is 362p, a 12.5 per cent rise over its previous level of 321.7p.

Granada, in a strategic reversal, also said it would sell Forte's Meridian and Executive chains, which together have 103 hotels. Gerry Robinson, chief executive, said Granada values the two chains at about £1.7 billion and has

received a "high level of interest" from potential buyers. He would not identify them.

Analysts stopped short of calling the bid a knock-out blow but gave it a good chance of success. Ron Lideboy, of Nomura, said: "It looks likely that they've got it. This makes things difficult for Forte."

Jason Crisp, of Strauss Turnbull Securities, said: "It's still a pretty close run thing, though I think the balance is in Granada's favour."

Paribas was one of the few investment firms that attached no advantage to either side, saying there was "so little to choose between the two valuations of Forte". It advised investors to opt for the strategy they considered least risky.

Forte shares rose by only 7p to 351p, suggesting investors think there is a possibility that Granada will not win. Granada closed at 637p, down 6p.

Forte said the new offer did not reflect the profit potential of the "new Forte", which, once it sold its roadside restaurants business, would be a pure hotels company, or the effects of the proposed £800

million share repurchase. Sir Rocco Forte, chairman and chief executive, said: "Now we see this bid for what it's worth — a 1980s-style, highly leveraged asset strip which has nothing to do with management skills."

Forte estimates that Granada, in the end, would unload more than £2 billion worth of Forte businesses. Granada had already said it would sell Forte's 68 per cent stake in the Savoy Hotel group, some of the Heritage hotels and probably some of the trophy hotels, among them the Hyde Park Hotel and Hotel Plaza Athénée.

Over the next two weeks — Granada has until January 23 to declare its offer unconditional or withdraw — Forte will tell its 40 main institutional investors that, although taking Granada's cash may be attractive, Forte presents a viable, long-term growth play in the hotels sector. Several recent independent reports have concluded that the sector, especially in the luxury end of the market, is poised for strong growth.

Granada argues that Forte's management record has been dismal in comparison with its own. Mr Robinson said Granada could boost Forte's annual profits by £100 million through such measures as absorbing Forte's legal and treasury operations, concentrating on fewer hotel brands and reducing the number of suppliers. A number of reductions would be inevitable, but Mr Robinson said most would come from management.

Council of Forte, page 26
Pennington, page 27



Charles Allen, left, and Gerry Robinson of Granada

Car pay deals 'not inflation threat'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

FEARS for inflation from high pay settlements — especially by the Ford motor company — expressed by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, are unlikely to be realised, an independent pay research group said yesterday.

Viewing Ford's deal as a pace-setting benchmark is out of date, Industrial Relations Services (IRS) said.

Yesterday, the Transport and General Workers' Union announced it is to ballot members at Vauxhall over a proposed three-year pay deal, which the company insists is final.

But the TGWU will make no recommendation on the offer of 4.5 per cent now, followed by inflation-linked increases in the next two years, unlike the AEEU engineering union, which is urging its members to accept.

The two unions are also balloting on industrial action over Ford's two-year pay offer for a rise of 4.75 per cent now, followed by an inflation-plus rise next year.

Last week, Mr George gave his strongest warning yet that current pay movements in the light of the car negotiations might threaten inflation and that any further reductions in interest rates would depend on the inflationary outlook.

But in its latest analysis of wage settlements, IRS cast strong doubt on the "received" wisdom of the importance of Ford's agreement for its 20,000 manual workers. IRS suggested it is less significant than the deals for 150,000 police, 60,000 firefighters, 100,000 BT workers, Tesco's 100,000 shopworkers and some larger bargaining groups in the public sector.

Eurotunnel shares at new low

EUROTUNNEL, the operator of the cross-Channel rail link, declined to comment last night after its shares fell 6p to a low of 77p amid rumours about its debt position and reports that Japanese banks were preparing to off-load their debts (George Sivel writes).

The company is due to give a briefing in Calais today on passenger and freight figures for 1995, its first full year of operation. Eurotunnel indicated last night that it was giving a general presentation on its business rather than on specific financial problems.

Eurotunnel said last night that it had begun talks with its banks on September 14, when it suspended interest payments on its debts. From September, Eurotunnel says, it has 18 months to resolve its debt problems.

Tempus, page 28

Barings' papers offer to SFO

By ROBERT MILLER

SENIOR officials from the Serious Fraud Office may visit Singapore again after being offered access to vital papers relating to the collapse of Barings Futures (Singapore), the company at the centre of the merchant bank's £860 million failure.

Until yesterday's offer, which came from Price Waterhouse, the liquidator of the failed Barings' firm, the SFO had been denied access to the papers by the Singapore courts. The decision on whether to send the fraud squad officers rests with James Kellock, the SFO lawyer in charge of the Barings investigation. The inquiry has been scaled down as no evidence has been found so far of criminal activity in the UK.

The SFO said that the cost of sending officers to Singapore could only be justified if there

was substantial new evidence to be uncovered that might lead to a prosecution in Britain.

Meanwhile, the investigation into the role of 12 former senior executives in the Barings crash by the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the watchdog for brokers and futures traders, is now complete but for "crossing the is and dotting the Ts". The SFA investigation team is expected to pass the file of any possible City rule breaches against individuals to Rosalind Wright, head of the regulator's prosecution unit.

Eleven of the 12 executives have been banned from working in the securities industry until the SFA investigation is completed. Andrew Tuckey, former deputy chairman of Barings, is retained as a consultant to Barings.

Sainsbury to unveil top-level changes

By SARAH BAGNALL



Sainsbury: dual role

J SAINSBURY, the supermarket group, is set to unveil high-level management changes today.

City analysts expect the changes to involve David Sainsbury, who holds the dual role of chairman and chief executive, announcing his intention to relinquish the latter post. The Cadbury committee recommended that public companies should split the roles. Sainsbury is one of the last major companies with one person holding both posts. He is the only Sainsbury left on the board.

One analyst said: "The dream combination would be if David has the guts to give up the chief executive's role and Dino Adriano is moved up to fill the slot."

A company spokesman said: "The announcement is to do with personnel

rather than trading." Asked whether the changes were at the top, the spokesman said: "I don't think we would be making an announcement if we were just hiring six more checkout girls at our Camden store."

Speculation that Mr Adriano, 52, is an internal favourite for a top job follows his promotion to assistant managing director in September. Mr Adriano, who was chairman of Housebase, Sainsbury's DIY chain, ranks below Sainsbury's existing two managing directors, but he has been reporting directly to Mr Sainsbury.

The changes could, however, centre on Tom Vyner, deputy chairman and joint managing director, who is scheduled to retire at next year's annual meeting. Sainsbury may want to clarify the issue

of succession. Sainsbury's management has been criticised in recent months as the retailer has been seen to be the loser in the supermarket groups' battle for market share.

Although Sainsbury remains Britain's most profitable and largest food retailer, it is losing market share and margins are under pressure. Recent figures showed that Sainsbury's market share in the four weeks to December 17 stood at 19.4 per cent, down 1.2 percentage points from last time. In contrast, Safeway, Tesco and Asda each lifted their market share.

Sainsbury, which lost out to Tesco in the battle for WM Low, the Scottish supermarkets group, is scheduled to release a trading statement on January 26.

Analysts cut HoF forecasts again

By SARAH BAGNALL

HOUSE OF FRASER, the department store group that includes Army & Navy and Dickens & Jones, yesterday suffered the ignominy of City analysts cutting their profit forecasts for the fourth time in less than two years.

In a repeat performance of last year, HoF warned investors that pre-tax profits for the year to January 27 would be "well below market estimates". The retailer blamed a less profitable sales mix, together with the need for markdowns.

The news prompted analysts to cut their profit forecasts from about £25 million to £13 million-£15 million. This compares with a pre-tax profit of £28 million last time. House of Fraser shares slid 13p in early trading, but recovered to end 3p down at 163p.

The company said sales had been strong in the week immediately before Christmas, with a like-for-like advance of 8.5 per cent. In the first week of the January sales the increase was 4.9 per cent. However, the increases failed to make up for the lacklustre performance during the rest of the year and as a result, like-for-like sales in the first 22 weeks of the second half rose just 2.3 per cent.

The amount of profit HoF made on each sale fell because of an increase in concession sales, which are lower-margin, and flat sales of its own bought products. There was also the added impact of lower sales of higher-margin lines, such as ladieswear and homeware, together with the need to mark down stock.

HoF said: "In the full year it is expected that the 1.6 per cent reduction in gross profit margin will alone cost the group £12.5 million." Similar markdowns are not expected during 1996. The board intends to maintain the final dividend at 5.5p.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	FT-SE 100	3,700.3	(-20.3)
Yield	3.88%		
Life long gilt	1613.35	(-1.86)	
Nikkei	20652.08	(-89.50)	
New York			
Dow Jones	8177.09	(-20.59)	
S&P Composite	613.59	(-4.45)	

US RATE	Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
	Long Bond	111.7%	(111.7%)
	Yield	6.07%	(6.04%)

LONDON MARKET	3-mth Interbank	8.75%	(8.75%)
	Future (Mar)	110.7%	(110.7%)

\$	1.5476	(1.5476)
DM	2.2313	(2.2313)
FF	7.8450	(7.8450)
Sfr	1.8041	(1.8039)
Yen	162.34	(163.45)
2 index	83.3	(83.4)

Council of Forte agrees to step aside for £50m

By ERIC REXLEY

THE Council of Forte has given up the ghost. Yesterday, the council, in effect, agreed to render itself powerless by selling its tiny stake in Forte to Granada if the group's £3.8 billion hostile takeover offer succeeds.

Granada would pay £50 million for the council's 780,000 trust shares, valuing each share at a hefty £64 apiece or about 17 times the 373p that the rest of the shareholders are being offered. But the council's shares are no ordinary shares: although they represent less than 1 per cent of the equity, they carry slightly more than

50 per cent of the votes. Granada, or any other potential acquirer, would have been unable to complete a takeover without having first struck a deal with the council. If it had not, the council simply could have, and probably would have, blocked the takeover. That is the main reason it was able to command a huge premium for its shares.

In exchange for the £50 million, the council will lose its voting control, but will not disappear: it will take up a new role. The council plans to register as a charity, invest the money and donate the income to various good causes. Granada said it would continue

to hold regular meetings with the council, but it was not clear what issues would be on the agenda.

Hambros Bank, the adviser to the council, estimates that the £50 million would produce £2 million to £3 million a year, more than three times the amount it receives from the 780,000 trust shares. In the past, the council has given money to ex-services, medical and youth charities. Which charities will receive the extra income has yet to be decided.

The council's agreement with Granada marks the end of an era. It was set up in 1994 to promote temperance and was a force to be reckoned with

because of its majority voting power. But it never got to the point of using its powers, even during takeovers.

In reality, the council was as much a select gentlemen's club as it was the moral centre of Forte. The eight members, all of them appointed by the Forte group, were clearly chosen from their status as much as for their principles. An adviser at Hambros said: "I would call them very sober and eminent people."

The current crop consists of Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, a former Labour Prime Minister, Hugh Duke, the Earl of Gainsborough, the Duke of Marlborough, Sir Paul Wright, Lord

Peyton of Yeovil, Lord Boyd-Carpenter and Sir Hugh Rossi.

They are paid £2,500 a year for their service and leave the council only when they resign or die. Both Granada and Forte consider the council a quaint relic of the past. Even if Granada loses the takeover battle, the council would be prepared to abandon its role as the controlling shareholder. The council, of course, would want its price from Forte and £50 million now appears to be the least amount it would accept.

Pennington, page 27
Stock market, page 28

Banks share UK's biggest custody contract

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Prudential has awarded the UK's biggest ever global custody contract to a consortium of banks to outsource the custody services for its clients' £45 billion portfolios of UK and international securities — to Midland Bank and Mellon Bank of the US.

The deal is thought to be the second biggest in the world after Calpers, a Californian state scheme, handed custody services for its \$65 billion portfolio to State Street in 1992.

Prudential Portfolio Managers, the UK's biggest institutional investor, put its global custody business out to tender in November 1994 in order to concentrate on its

core fund management business.

It asked ten banks to bid for the business.

Banks thought to have been interested in the Prudential Portfolio Managers' business included Barclays, Chase Manhattan, Citibank and Royal Bank of Scotland.

The rising costs of the administration of securities and the increasingly global nature of the business have made it less cost effective for fund managers to handle custody themselves.

Prudential Portfolio Managers said the move would enhance the security of its assets as well as reduce the custody charges to its clients.

Custody services include safekeeping of investments, trade settlement, income collection, proxy voting and tax reclamation.

Roger Fishwick, treasurer at PPM, said the Prudential decided to outsource given the investment it would have needed for the introduction of rolling settlement under Crest in the summer and because of the growing requirement for transparency from its pension fund clients.

He said: "If firms are spending £50 million a year investing to improve their custody services, as a fund manager you are not going to be able to keep up with that. A specialist provider (of custody services) can provide economies of scale."

Midland Securities Services, a division of Midland Bank, will provide global custody services for assets worth £40 billion, which is all UK-sourced global assets except those in the US where Mellon Trust, part of the Pittsburgh-based Mellon Bank, will act as custodian.

PPM has £76 billion under management. The £31 billion not included in the Midland and Mellon deal includes investments made by PPM offices in Chicago, Toronto, Sydney, Wellington, Hong Kong, Singapore and Cape Town. The custody service for these investments is already outsourced.

Mellon Trust will also act as record-keeper for PPM's investments, using its technology to record all trades, feed the data to Midland and provide consolidated record-keeping for PPM's offices.



Cliff Bassett, right, Jeremy Attwood, financial director, left, and Richard Bird, chief executive, at Universal Salvage

Universal Salvage on target

By PHILIP FANGALOS

UNIVERSAL SALVAGE, the contract motor salvage company that sells wrecked cars written off by insurance companies, is optimistic on prospects after reporting interim profits in line with its prospectus forecasts.

The company, which came to the market in September, saw pre-tax profits, after flotation costs of £668,000, dip to £1.5 million in the six months to October 31, compared with £1.7 million last time.

Organic growth and new client wins helped trading profits to rise 8.7 per cent to £2.2 million, on turnover ahead 8.1 per cent to £21 million.

Cliff Bassett, chairman, is optimistic about prospects. He said: "Trading remains strong and the level of instructions received from clients continues to increase. Negotiations are also ongoing with a number of major insurers."

The group has more than £2 million cash on deposit and is negotiating to acquire "a substantial site" in the south of England. There is a maiden interim dividend of 1.52p, payable on February 14, from adjusted earnings ahead 10.1 per cent to 5.44p (4.94p) a share. The shares added 2p to 217p.

Rolls-Royce wins £315m Malaysian airline order

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ROLLS-ROYCE is making rapid progress in Asia, the world's fastest growing aerospace market, after winning an order worth up to £315 million from Malaysian Airline System.

The contract accompanied confirmation that Boeing of America had seen off a challenge by Airbus Industrie, the European consortium including British Aerospace, for a \$4 billion order to supply MAS with 25 long-haul aircraft.

It gives the Derby-based aero-engine maker a 60 per cent share of sales on Boeing's new 777 jet in Pacific Asia. Sales success among the re-

gion's fast expanding airlines is helping to change perceptions of Rolls-Royce, which spent \$1 billion developing its biggest engine, the Trent, to power the Boeing jet.

Shares in the company gained 5p yesterday on news of the order, but closed unchanged at 195p.

MAS, which is now emerging as one of Boeing's biggest customers, confirmed contracts worth \$4 billion to buy ten Boeing 747 jumbos and 15 of Boeing's next largest aircraft, the 777.

In addition, the airline took options on three more 747s and two additional 777s. While

the 747s will use American Pratt & Whitney engines, the 777s will be powered by Trent engines.

John Cheffins, managing director of Rolls's commercial aero engine group, was delighted by the MAS decision. "The Trent has now taken about 60 per cent of the Boeing 777 business in Asia Pacific and has been selected by every 777 purchaser in South East Asia," he said.

Rolls has secured orders for the Trent from Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific, and Emirates.

Air competition, page 29

Medical insurance market tempts L&G

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

LEGAL & GENERAL entered the competitive medical insurance market yesterday, with policies aimed primarily at its 2.5 million existing life and pensions customers. It is spending £10 million on developing and promoting its Lifetime Healthcare plan, which will be sold both directly and through agents from Monday.

Insurers are increasingly moving into private medical provision because it is seen as a lucrative market, compared with the motor and household insurance market, which many believe is saturated.

Lang and Buisson, the industry analysts, estimated last year that 11 per cent of British people were covered by health insurance, and premium income was £1.7 billion. Medical expenses cover is still dominant

ed by the Hospital Savings Association, which has 750,000 subscribers, while 45 per cent of private medical insurance — about 2.5 million policies — is bought from BUPA, followed by Private Patients Plan (27 per cent), Norwich Union (9 per cent) and Standard Life (5 per cent).

Legal & General said it intended to sell "middle income, middle England customers who are anxious about health care but do not want to pay the high cost of staying in hospitals with plush carpets and expensive fees".

Legal & General said the monthly premium for a single person aged 24, including insurance premium tax, would be £10.34, compared with Norwich Union's Personal Care policy at £10.10.

TOURIST RATES

	Jan	Feb	Mar
Australia S	2.17	2.01	1.92
Europe S	1.67	1.57	1.48
Belgium F	48.92	46.82	44.72
Canada S	2.219	2.053	1.987
Japan C	10.744	10.080	9.416
Denmark D	9.28	8.89	8.50
France F	7.34	6.97	6.60
Germany G	6.07	5.72	5.37
Greece D	2.35	2.19	2.03
Hong Kong S	326.02	301.00	276.00
Ireland P	12.25	11.65	11.05
Italy I	25.90	24.90	23.90
Japan Y	177.20	151.40	125.60
Malta	0.992	0.937	0.882
Netherlands D	2.655	2.425	2.195
New Zealand S	2.50	2.28	2.06
Norway N	10.64	9.94	9.24
Portugal E	10.44	9.74	9.04
Spain P	1.95	1.82	1.69
Sweden S	10.58	10.08	9.58
Switzerland F	1.34	1.26	1.18
Turkey L	10.64	9.94	9.24
USA S	1.617	1.517	1.417

Rates for small demonstration cover only as supplied by L&G. Rates for larger cover, subject to underwriting, may be higher. Rates are in £/100 of trading currency.

Tesco in deal to join £30m development

TESCO STORES has signed an agreement to lease a 72,000 sq ft site at Development Securities' £30 million retail development at Broughton Park, near Chester. Development Securities also said discussions were underway with other retail groups interested in leasing units at the site, which has planning permission for 297,000 sq ft of retail development.

Almost two million people live within 30 minutes' drive of the centre of Chester, a catchment area which Development Securities considers to be under-served by substantial retail centres.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Closer links expected in defence industry

THE rapid consolidation of the US defence industry is fuelling speculation of moves by European rivals keen to protect their competitiveness. Shares in British Aerospace rose yesterday amid talk that Daimler-Benz, the German engineering group, might take a stake, or that BAE might be contemplating closer links with McDonnell Douglas of the US. Both companies are already partners with BAE in military aircraft programmes, and contacts are frequent. A BAE spokesman declined to comment, but pointed out that close connections already exist.

The European companies are partners in Airbus Industrie, the civil jet consortium, and on the Tornado and Eurofighter warplanes. McDonnell, for its part, builds the US version of the BAe Harrier jump-jet. To date, opportunities to cut costs through cross-border mergers among Europe's defence manufacturers have proved elusive. Daimler-Benz has merged its helicopter and missile businesses with those of Aerospatiale in France, but the original production sites have been maintained. Meanwhile, Daimler is still wrestling with heavy losses in its civil aerospace business. Some 5,000 jobs are being shed in its Airbus division. Further job cuts are expected at Fokker, the Dutch regional aircraft manufacturer controlled by Daimler. The German parent is still negotiating with the Dutch Government about a joint cash injection to save it from insolvency.

Shake-up planned

OLYMPIA & YORK Cos. USA, the troubled North American property company, has agreed a financial restructuring that effectively gives control to two of its biggest creditors. Carena Developments, the property holding company of the Bronfman family of Toronto, and Apollo Real Estate will get most of the core property assets, including the World Financial Centre. Under the deal, Carena will invest between \$75 million to \$100 million. The plan is subject to the approval of the court overseeing the bankruptcy case of Olympia & York Cos.

Kleinwort acquisition

KLEINWORT BENSON has bought SBC Warburg's big ticket leasing portfolio and its executive team of ten people led by Michael Hardwick for an undisclosed sum, thought to be close to its £500 million book value. The team has advised on and arranged leasing and related financings in the UK and internationally. John Cameron, joint head of financing at Kleinwort, said he was very excited by the deal as S G Warburg & Co. Leasing has a strong advisory business. He said: "This is better than we have dared dream."

Union joint venture

UNION, the financial services firm, has set up a joint venture registered in Dublin with France's Demachy Worms, to launch a range of multi-currency money market funds expected to raise at least \$50 million at the end of this month. The Matrix Fund Company will have initially six liquidity funds denominated in marks, Swiss and French francs, sterling, dollars and yen, each managed by a money manager in its home country. It is hoped the value of the open-ended funds will be more than \$250 million in one year.

Slade to stand down

LAURIE SLADE, the Insurance Ombudsman, is to leave when his contract expires in August. Mr Slade, who has held the post since September 1994, is "ready for a change" and wishes to develop other professional interests. The Insurance Ombudsman Council is now seeking a successor. One third of its workload, cases relating to financial services products, will be transferred to the Personal Investment Authority Ombudsman this year. The Insurance Ombudsman will be left with problems relating to general insurance.

Irish return for Burmin

BURMIN Exploration and Development, the former Dublin-listed minerals explorer which merged with Australian mining company Spia Resources in 1992, is returning to the Irish stock market as Ormonde Mining. The company plans to raise up to £12.4 million at 12p a share in an initial public offering sponsored by Dublin broker J & E Davy. Desmond J Burke, Burmin's former managing director, will hold the same position in the new company. Ormonde will target prospects in Mexico, Tanzania and Ireland.

THE TIMES TRAVEL OFFER



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MORTGAGES NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION ON BANK OF SCOTLAND PREMIER FLEXI MORTGAGE

The following interest rate will apply from close of business on 9 January 1996 for loans not yet drawn and from the first payment date thereafter for existing Premier Flexi Mortgage Customers.

Premier Flexi Mortgage Rate
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BANK OF SCOTLAND
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Head Office: The Mound, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ.

□ Forte's fate in the balance □ The mysteries of the weekly shopping basket □ A novel approach to policing directors

Granada's Golden Shot

□ GRANADA has roped in a little financial help to fund its latest onslaught on Forte, and the mystery benefactor is you and me. Gerry Robinson has been able to sweeten his higher offer to the tune of 12p a share in tax breaks for those City institutions that can reclaim the tax credit on the special dividend.

As most of Forte's shares are held by such institutions, this is equivalent to a £100 million-plus rise in the value of the bid, paid for out of the public purse. Such special dividends were worryingly common in the state of utilities bids last year, and one had hoped they would have been ruled out of court in the Budget. Action in due course, please, from whichever government.

Granada has fired its higher shot with extraordinary skill. As well as the tax advantages, the bolting on to the existing terms of a 47p special dividend to be paid out of Forte's coffers has avoided the need to underwrite this £450 million addition to its offer. So much for dark mutterings that the group's shareholders would not support an increased bid and that the finances would not take the strain.

But Mr Robinson is still asking those same shareholders to take a great deal on trust. That extra £450 million will have to be found at the end of the day, and it will have to be loaded on to al-

ready quite substantial borrowings. These would then amount to some £3.5 billion, by most reckonings, once the deal is done, with an eventual — note, eventual — fall to £2.9 billion after the end of the financial year and the sale of non-performing assets such as the Savoy stake.

Granada then hopes to raise £1.6 billion, the book value of the luxury hotels within Forte, by selling them. This is where the faith comes in. If those disposals do not take place — a well-placed bomb, God forbid, and a collapse in the London tourist trade, for example? — Granada is stuck with this debt until the market recovers.

If the hotels and all else can be sold, gearing returns to a more normal 70 per cent, improving to 50 per cent on revaluation of the BSkyB stake, now in the books at about £500 million less than it is worth. More importantly, interest cover is a healthy eight times profits.

Mr Robinson has sighted his offer well within the 360p to 380p killing ground where the fate of Forte will be settled. He would never pay more, and shareholders

would not accept less. The Council of Forte has been squared with £50 million towards its good causes and a nebulous future role in the furtherance of temperance, for goodness' sake.

It is down to a choice between managements. Would shareholders prefer a tightly-focused luxury hotels play run by Sir Rocco Forte, or a debt-burdened leisure group run by one of the most respected managements in the country? On balance, but only on balance, the City is inclined to think Granada will succeed at this level. But there is a fortnight of play still to come.

Breaking down the food chain

□ HERE is an odd paradox: Britain has the most viciously competitive food retailing sector in the world, where the big chains can only stay afloat by constant product innovation and a close watch on the prices their rivals are charging.

Why, therefore, do British grocers earn margins on average



four times higher than their Continental or American counterparts enjoy? And why are British shoppers happy to pay such prices?

The question has added relevance on the day that Sainsbury's has accepted the inevitability of some changes to its board, which has by tradition been dominated by people called Sainsbury. The supermarkets group was once the *ne plus ultra* of food retailing; now, so tough has been the competition and so rapid its fall to a sadder and a humbler Sainsbury has had to bow to City pressure.

The industry would have it that change has come about from loyalty cards, selective price-cutting and various other perks

all of which conspire to reduce the cost of everyone's weekly grocery basket — only yesterday, Asda widened its money-off vouchers scheme. In a low-inflation environment, with shoppers accustomed to a static weekly bill, that is about the only way the supermarkets can make progress against each other.

The resolution of the paradox is twofold. One, the band of grocers that controls three fifths of all food sales is a disguised cartel. Each strives to ensure its prices are not undercut by the others, but such vigilance works both ways, by setting a baseline below which prices need not be cut further.

Two, high margins are the reward of the efficient. British supermarkets earn more, for every pound spent at the till, than their overseas equivalents because they buy in better, manage their shops better and produce a higher-margin prepared products that shoppers are happy to pay over the odds for. There is little in foreign supermarkets like the range of chilled foods available at even those British grocers perceived as

down-market — let alone the sort of goods Marks & Spencer can sell, and the sort of margins they can achieve on them.

Simpler fraud trials by a technicality

□ MANY suspected frauds go unprosecuted because it is so complex and costly to prove common law charges that failure beckons for the police and the Serious Fraud Office. Chartered accountants have, for once, come up with a blindingly simple answer that would cover many of the more complex cases. Why not rely on a technical charge available under company law: deceiving the auditor. Fraudsters rarely announce their fraud in the company's accounts.

Proving deception is more black and white than the shades of grey that appear when financial wrongdoing is defined as, say, theft. If directors tell the auditor one thing when the truth turns out to be different, legal argument might often be more about seriousness or mitigation than guilt or innocence.

All that is needed, according to the ICAEW's auditing faculty, is to raise the maximum sentence from two to five years and to widen the coverage to anyone on the payroll. Perhaps. But is that five-year maximum really necessary? Most of the frauds concerned, as opposed to the theft of public funds, would be adequately punished by two years at Her Majesty's taxpayers' expense. Few serve so long in reality. But if five years would persuade macho prosecuting folk to make more use of this law, the sooner Michael Howard waves his stick the better.

More or less

□ GERRY ROBINSON of Granada is, of course, well known for his contention that when it comes to hours worked, less is more — although it is not clear how far down the Granada organisation his attitude is allowed to extend. Prue Leith has now pointed out that the overwork culture creates the "glass ceiling", holding women back by discriminating against those on whom the heaviest burden of childcare falls. Sadly, this would seem to give male-dominated managements every reason to perpetuate it. But one day the 1990s cult of overwork will be viewed as we now view Victorian child labour: a cultural aberration from a less civilised time.

National Power cuts its workforce by another 400

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY



John Baker of National Power, where more jobs have gone

NATIONAL POWER yesterday added to the huge jobs rout in the electricity industry when the generator, which has cut its workforce by more than 11,000 to 5,000 since privatisation, said 400 more positions were to go.

Since the electricity industry was sold into the private sector more than 42,000 jobs have been lost with the total set to reach 43,000 by the end of March when redundancies for PowerGen are expected to come through in an end of the financial year round-up.

City expectations pitch the losses at PowerGen at 700 taking its staff down to 3,000 from a pre-privatisation total of 10,000. Labour repeated its condemnation of the job cuts in utilities and claimed that more than £49 million had been lost in taxes and other benefits from the staff reduction of National Power.

National Power said that along with the job reductions it expected to make cost savings of £100 million over the next two years. Staff cuts will form only a modest part of this with the majority of the savings coming from getting rid of non-power station activities. It will reduce its use of consultants and advisors and other ancillary services.

The company did not rule out compulsory redundancies in the across-the-board sweep at its Swindon headquarters.

However, it said it hoped that sufficient volunteers would come forward. Senior

management will face the axe as well as a number of administrative staff.

National Power, which last month gave back £260 million to shareholders in a buy-back, blamed the job cuts on competition in power provision and the reduction in its output which has been demanded by the electricity regulator. It has to sell 4,000 megawatts of plant which will cut output by 25 per cent and take its market share down to about 20 per cent.

Deadline for the sale is the end of March and the company says it is still negotiating with four potential bidders, including Hanson and three US companies. A spokesman said that the sale involved complex issues and would hinge on whether one company would buy the complete package or if the sale would be broken down.

It is also possible it could fix long-term leases if the current interested parties fail to come up with sufficient cash.

The generator, which is waiting to hear from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on its bid for the regional electricity company Southern, said some of the cost savings and efficiency gains it expects over the next two years will smooth further overseas development.

At present overseas interests account for just 5 per cent of earnings but National Power is keen to expand foreign opportunities as its base in the UK shrinks amid regulatory and competitive pressures.

Trump to up stake in casino

BY RICHARD THOMSON

DONALD TRUMP, the controversial American property tycoon, is buying back full control of the Taj Mahal Casino in Atlantic City, three years after he was forced to sell half of his share in it to prop up his failing business empire. The move is a further step in the recovery of his business fortunes.

Mr Trump was forced on to the defensive when the recession caused rents and property values to slump at the end of the 1980s. Now, Trump Hotels and Casino Resorts, in which he has a 40 per cent stake, is issuing \$140 million of new shares, while a separate funding vehicle is issuing \$750 million in new bonds. The proceeds will be used to buy out the Taj Mahal's other shareholders.

Rhône-Poulenc lowers year's profit estimates

BY GEORGE STIVELL

RHÔNE-POULENC, the French chemicals and pharmaceutical group, revealed yesterday that it was now expecting lower 1995 profits than forecast earlier. The move sent the shares down Fr3.20 to Fr103.80.

During 1995 Rhône-Poulenc said it expected a significant rise and had even talked of double-digit growth before trimming that back in the autumn to a noticeable improvement. Full results are due from the group on January 31.

Rhône, which now owns Fisons, the British pharmaceutical group through the Rhône-Poulenc Rorer operation, said yesterday: "Based on the first indications of activities in the fourth quarter, and without taking account of possible effects of the Fisons integration, the group is now

expecting lower results than previously forecast."

"The elements which have led to this revision are essentially, besides the downturn in the economy visible from last September, the effect of the transportation strike at the end of last year and the exceptional contributions required from the pharmaceutical industry in France."

"Finally, the group has decided to increase slightly the amount of provisions to be recorded for the year."

Rhône declined to comment on whether it was still expecting any rise on the Fr 1.915 billion net attributable profit seen in 1994 and Fr 962 million in 1993. However, expectations of about Fr 2 billion took hold in the French market yesterday, down from forecasts of Fr 3 billion just three months ago. Provision in

1994 reached Fr 1.1 billion.

Rhône has suffered extra damage from the three-week transport strike in December and had closed some chemical production units in the Rhône-Alpes region. In addition the pharmaceutical industry is in negotiations with the Government over a Fr 2.5 billion franc "contribution" Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, is asking from the industry to help cut the social security deficit.

□ Akzo Nobel, the Dutch chemicals giant, said it still expected 1995 net profits to be higher than the previous year but noted that the strong improvement in results in the first two quarters "could not be maintained". The company's expectations for 1996 were "modest."

Tempos, page 28

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*A comparison of similar accounts from major High Street Banks on 4th January 1995. The interest rates quoted are gross (i.e. the net after deduction of tax) and correct at time of going to press, but may vary. Interest is calculated daily and paid half yearly. Co-operative Bank p.l.c. registered address, 1, Balloon Street, Manchester M4 6ET.

American expansion for Biocompatibles

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

BIOCOMPATIBLES International, the medical coatings and materials company which floated in April, is expanding overseas through an American acquisition for a total of up to \$21 million.

Biocompatibles is buying Atlanta Catheter Company, the California group that develops products for the balloon angioplasty market, for \$17.5 million in shares, with further payments of up to \$3.5 million depending on performance.

Angioplasty is the surgical procedure used in connection with high blood pressure, whereby balloon catheters and stents are passed through,

or inserted in, the vascular system to help clear occluded blood vessels.

Alistair Taylor, president and chief executive, said the acquisition will facilitate the expansion of Biocompatibles' cardiovascular business in this rapidly-expanding market. He added that the acquisition will bring its production of accessory products in-house, providing "substantial" cost savings.

Atlanta, which sells its angioplasty products to more than 15 countries, is currently awaiting FDA approval for the manufacture and distribution of its products in America.

Brackenbridge rescue embraces new name

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

BRACKENBRIDGE, the bridalwear and formal clothes group formerly known as Cupid, has unveiled a long-awaited rescue plan comprising new chief executive, an acquisition, a placing and open offer, a debt conversion and another name change.

Brackenbridge, which owns Pronuptia bridalwear and Youngs formal wear, has acquired Langside, a men's formal wear company, for £250,000 in cash and shares. The enlarged group's name will become Formal Group.

Charles Brine, Langside's managing director and majority shareholder, will become

chief executive, while Stephen Riley, Brackenbridge's managing director, will revert to finance director. Damian Aspinall and Dan Taylor will join the board and invest substantially in the group.

The loss-making company, whose shares remain suspended on the Unlisted Securities Market, is also raising £1.7 million through a placing and open offer, underwritten by Wise Speke, at 1p a share, to fund the acquisition and provide working capital. In addition, £1.75 million of Brackenbridge's existing debt will be converted into new ordinary shares.

TSB takeover puts Visa in a spot

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT



VISA's European board is in a quandry. After the takeover of TSB by Lloyds Bank last year, two of its members, including its chairman, represent the same bank.

Peter Ellwood was elected by Visa member banks as part-time chairman of Visa International and of the Visa European Union boards in June 1994, when he was chief executive of TSB. He is the only one of the four representatives of UK banks on the Visa EU board who represents the interests of smaller banks. As deputy chief executive of the new Lloyds TSB,

this is no longer something he could claim to do.

The other UK members of the Visa EU board are Gerald Hawkins, general manager of payment services at Lloyds TSB, Bob Potts, chief executive of Barclaycard, and Trevor Blackler, chief executive of group services at NatWest. Normally there cannot be two representatives on its board from one bank.

A Visa spokesman said: "We are still waiting for information from the bank." Under certain circumstances, for instance if Lloyds TSB represented "a certain volume

of Visa transactions in the region", the bank could have two representatives on the board. He added Visa was also waiting for "further clarification of the situation of the structure of the bank".

He said: "Possibly we could have two people from one organisation. It will depend on whether the organisation is formed as a result of a merger or a transfer of assets and on the size of it and a number of other legal bits and pieces."

Lloyds TSB said: "They are aware that they need to talk about it and they are talking about it."

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares cool fast on Tory fears and US blizzards

WORRIES about another Conservative defeat and the worsening weather conditions in America cut short another record-breaking run by the London stock market.

The FT-SE 100 index, after hitting a new all-time trading high of 3,728.6, went into reverse to end the session 20.3 down at 3,707.3. Last night there were signs of futures-related selling that was threatening to erode the healthy premium built up and the cash market in recent weeks.

Early trading had been bolstered by the higher offer for Forti. But this proved short-lived with the news that Peter Thurnham, MP for Bolton North East, was considering standing as an independent after his seat disappears at the next election.

Meanwhile, New York remained in the grip of one of the worst blizzards for years with the forecast of more to come. Renewed worries about the US Federal Budget saw an early lead in the Dow Jones industrial average quickly wiped out and that took its toll on London.

That increased offer from Granada for Forti came as no surprise to brokers with the new terms valuing the bid at £3.8 billion. Granada is now offering four shares and £23.25 in cash for every 15 Forti shares. It raises the value of the offer from 32p to a share to 37p with a cash alternative of 36p. There is also a 47p cash sweetener thrown in for Forti shareholders if they accept the bid.

But in spite of the increased terms Forti could only muster a rise of 7p to 35p, as it continued to urge shareholders to reject the offer, which it said undervalued the group. Granada's Gerry Robinson said the offer was "a insult to our management of the future in order to create an appearance of value."

Last night the bid was finely pitched with few brokers willing to predict the outcome. Granada reiterated its bid to 63p. It has agreed to buy Forti's roadside interests, including Travelodge, Welcome Break and Happy Eater, for a total of £1.5 billion. The price was further depressed by a line of 1 million shares on offer at a discount to the market price.

A late story sweeping the market suggested Eurotunnel was about to call in the



P&O shares slid as more people said farewell to ferries

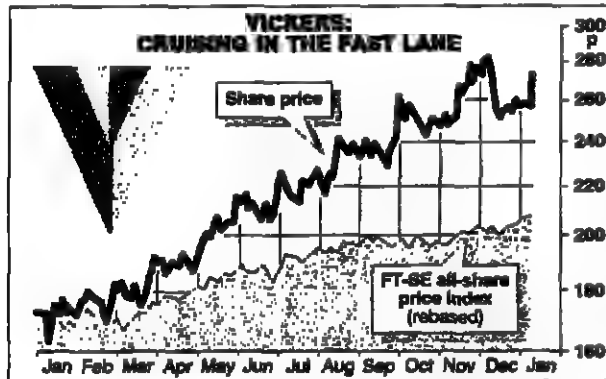
receivers, though the story was treated with scepticism by brokers generally. It followed claims that a consortium of Japanese banks holding the bulk of the loans outstanding to Eurotunnel had become impatient and were ready to pull the rug. The shares hit an all-time low of 77p, off 7p.

But the battle for control of the Channel continues to hot receivers, though the story was treated with scepticism by brokers generally. It followed claims that a consortium of Japanese banks holding the bulk of the loans outstanding to Eurotunnel had become impatient and were ready to pull the rug. The shares hit an all-time low of 77p, off 7p.

One of the heaviest traded companies was British Gas, up 3 1/2p at 26p, as almost 20 million shares changed hands. Once again there is talk of a bid from Shell. After last year's £9 billion bid by Glaxo for Wellcome, brokers say anything is possible. A merger would create a group with a stock market value of £42 billion.

up. P&O fell 8p to 47p after revealing cross-Channel traffic fell sharply last year. Tourist vehicles were down 7 per cent at just above 2.5 million, while passenger and freight-vehicle volumes also fell. It follows a similar announcement by Stena about nursing a fall in its Dover-Calais route.

British Aerospace stood out with a leap of 22p to 824p.



Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan

180p in April, 1994. The latest profits warning will be bad news for Phillips & Drew Fund Management, the group's biggest shareholder, which has 20.1 per cent. Brokers responded by cutting their estimates of £25 million, which compares with last year's £28 million.

Vickers accelerated 15p to 272p after announcing a 10 per cent increase in sales at its Rolls-Royce car division. In the first nine months of the year sales rose just 3 per cent. Sales to the US accounted for much of the increase. Brokers said the performance was helped by deliveries of the new Bentley Azure. A total of 108 were sold last year retailing at £215,000 each.

National Express, the transport operator, jumped 22p to 389p after a visit to the company by brokers. Oil & Gas jumped 3 1/2p to 61p as almost 10 million shares changed hands. It seems that the big seller that has overshadowed the shares recently has now withdrawn.

SkyPharma, the subject of a reverse takeover of Black & Edgington, the old marquee supplier, made its debut on AIM after a rights issue at 4p. Shares in the ordinary opened at 7p before closing at 8 1/2p. SkyPharma is headed by Ian Gowrie-Smith, former head and founder of Medeva. He is expected to use SkyPharma as a vehicle to make acquisitions in the pharmaceutical market.

GILT-EDGED: Prices enjoyed an early mark-up but failed to hold their best levels. The latest German unemployment figures, showing an unexpected rise, gave a boost to an already firm market. But City expectations left its shares continuing to have an adverse effect on the US bond market and rumours of another possible Conservative defeat they dipped towards the close.

In the futures pit, the March series of the Long Gilt touched £110 before ending up 1/2p better at £110 1/2. The total number of contracts completed was £38,000. In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose £2 to £102 1/2, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was three ticks firmer at £104 1/2.

NEW YORK: Lower bonds and technology shares drove down prices at midday. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 20.59 at 5,177.09.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5177.09 (-20.59)
S&P Composite 613.98 (-1.48)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20652.08 (+53.50)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 10427.20 (+36.47)

Amsterdam:
BSE Index 300.89 (+2.73)

Sydney:
All Ordinaries 2262.8 (-12.1)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2349.66 (+26.18)

Singapore:
Straits 2373.80 (+12.27)

Brussels:
General 1676.01 (+51.61)

Paris:
CAC-40 1916.29 (+0.27)

Zurich:
SIX 400 742.00 (+2.80)

London:
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TEMPUS

Stored up problems

HOUSE OF FRASER's life has been short and far from sweet. In two years it has suffered four profits downgrades by brokers. More than 100,000 small investors bought the shares at 180p when Hof floated off in April 1994, compared with yesterday's 161p.

The group had a lousy 1995 and although Christmas trading was respectable, it failed to provide a tonic to prop up profits. Second half like-for-like sales rose 2.3 per cent, but margins slipped because of a less profitable sales mix and the need — again — for aggressive markdowns. Stock problems are not new at Hof and again it was forced to cut prices to shift old merchandise and ensure current stock moves from shelf to shopping bag.

Managing its stock problems more effectively is a start to the recovery process, but avoiding the problem in the first place is the

real issue. The arrival in November of Rebecca Sharp as merchandising director may prove the answer, but any beneficial impact is unlikely to be felt before the autumn. Another problem is the sales mix. Lower-margin concession sales have risen, while sales of higher-margin ladieswear and homeware have fallen.

The group has suffered from years of under-investment and the current refurbishment programme — a hefty £50 million — does not appear to be producing an adequate return. It is in its early days, however.

The shares are trading on 23 times January 1997 earnings, reflecting the City's view that Hof will recover, or management may be changed. That may be true, but until tangible evidence emerges to support this view, the shares look expensive.

National Power

SHAREHOLDERS of National Power are laughing. Only last month, £260 million was tossed back at them through a share buy-back. Now they hear another £100 million in costs is to be surgically removed from the company over the next two years.

EMPUS
up problems

THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Busman's trip
for Marshall

SIR Colin Marshall will today perform his first official public duty as chairman of Incheape. It's not quite a busman's holiday, but he will be at Heathrow, with Gary Linaker, former England football captain, and a llama, to see 100 young people off to Chile — but not on a BA flight.

The party is the first of five initiatives that Incheape is funding in conjunction with Raleigh International, the charity. "It has a policy to fly the cheapest route, and Sir Colin approves," an Incheape man said.

Sir Colin did, however, use BA when he flew to the Gulf States, earlier this week, on behalf of Incheape.

On notice

NINE brokers who are attempting to join a rival broker are being sued by their current employer for breach of contract. Greig Middleton, the private client stockbroker, confirms that it has served writs on the nine, who have banded in their notice and plan to join Brewin Dolphin. The action is due to be heard in London next week.

With periods of between six and 12 months "garden leave", as they sit out paid notice, the nine are said to be "bored", and told Greig Middleton that they wanted to get back to work and had hoped to join their new firm on January 1. Greig Middleton contends they should complete their notice.

The outcome of the hearing will have widespread implications for many in the City. James Capel is still waiting for one senior analyst to join it from Credit Suisse Asset Management, which is holding "its" man to a year's notice.



"Not for me — they're becoming too common"

A CLIENT of KPMG, the accountancy firm whose slogan is "KPMG Means Business", is wondering what the firm's initials really stand for. He notices fees charged to him keep on rising, which makes him think KPMG stands for Keep Prices Moving Generally.

Team leaks

KLEINWORT BENSON has finally sprung a leak — after managing to keep its team intact in the wake of widespread defections from other firms to Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. Its number one-rated utilities team of water and electricity analysts, Dr Simon Williams, Andrew Mead and Graeme Moyle, are heading for Deutsche, which has been building up its equities capabilities.

Horse talk

KIM STOCKDALE, who rides in the British National's Cup, is said to be a keen supporter of the stock exchange. Before Big Bang, members of the Stock Exchange were small under-capitalised partnerships whose livelihood depended largely on the volume of trade going through London. They were not very concerned with costs and were indifferent to competition.

There were good reasons for having the Exchange as a cooperative institution. With its virtual monopoly on trading, there was an important public interest in regulation and a well-functioning market that might have been hard to delegate to a conventional commercial organisation. Rule changes might have drastic impact on member firms, with nowhere else to go it was reasonable that they should be involved in any decisions.

But Big Bang has changed much of that. With the Financial Services Act

Plane-makers facing fierce fight for market supremacy

Price-cutting tactics add to pain of competition in aviation, says Ross Tieman

Air travel has moved into the bargain basement. For £196 you can cross the Atlantic and back for less than £600 you can buy a return ticket to Australia.

There is no single explanation. Cheap oil, rising traveller volumes and intense competition between airlines all play their part. But over the past 12 months, another novel factor has come into play: cheap aircraft.

During 1995, Boeing, the American manufacturer that dominates the world aircraft market, launched a price war. Its objective: to recapture the leadership in new orders that it had lost to its upstart European rival, Airbus Industrie, during 1994.

The aggression of Boeing's counter-attack has astonished the aviation industry. Focusing on the newest aircraft in the Airbus range, Boeing has discounted its rival planes to unprecedented levels.

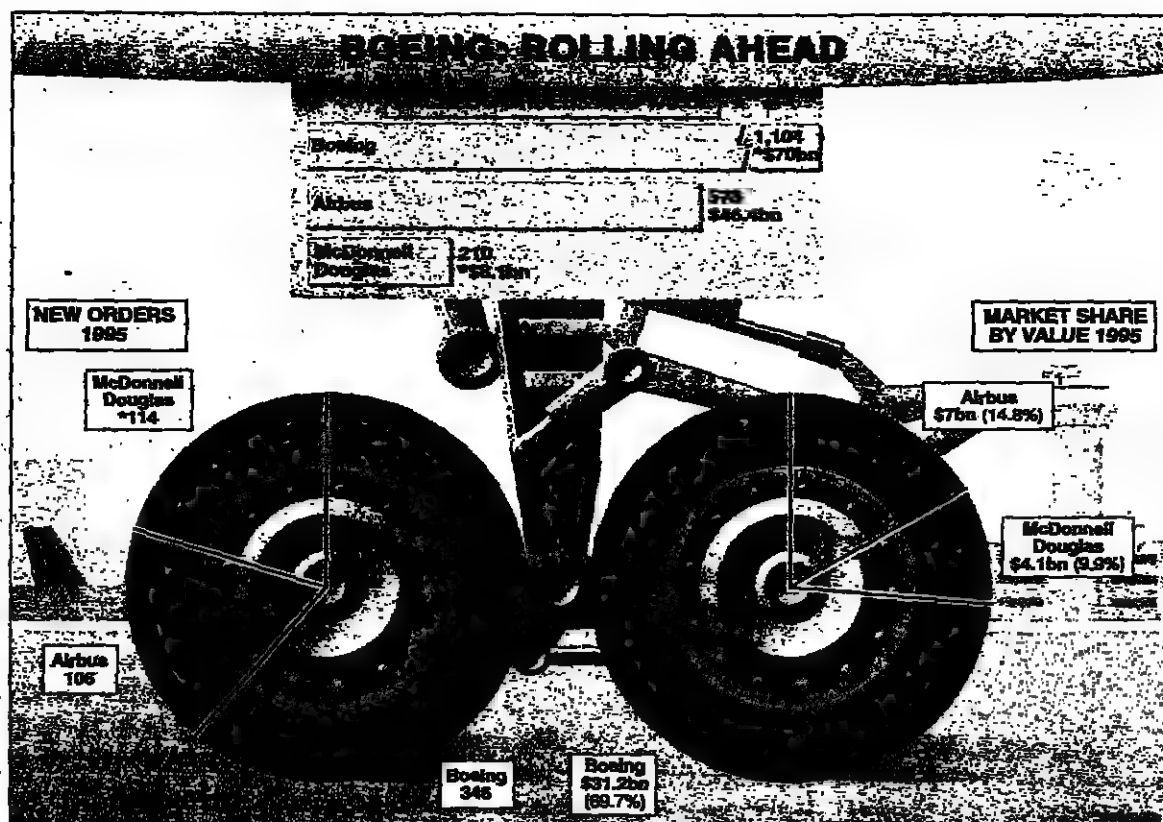
In the 130-seat segment, where the little A320 twin-jet was soaring ahead, Boeing has been offering its updated 737 model at 25 per cent below the current cost of production. The offer relies on a successful outcome to its four-year cost-cutting plan.

But the most brutal battle involves the big, new twin-aisle aircraft, where Boeing, Airbus and McDonnell Douglas of Long Beach, California have each spent the best part of \$1 billion developing new planes.

Airbus was first off the tarmac with its A330 twin-jet and its ultra-long-range four-engine sister, the A340. McDonnell Douglas struggled to gain height with its MD11. But since the first Boeing 777 took to the air, the Seattle manufacturer has roared to the top of the sales charts, cutting prices to the bone where necessary to win orders.

But the pain of competition is not borne by the aircraft-makers alone. In this battle of the giants, the world's big three aero-engine-makers have also found themselves on the rack. Engines account for up to a quarter of the price of a plane. The design of the new giant twin-jets, the A330 and Boeing 777, obliged the manufacturers to develop engines twice as powerful as anything built before. Rolls-Royce of Britain, and Pratt & Whitney and General Electric of America, spent the best part of \$1 billion on their entry ticket to the race now under way. Now they, too, are being obliged to offer heavy discounts as airlines play them off against one another.

In the sumo contest between the big twins, the A330 and the 777, this counts for little. But it appears to disadvantage the A340 in almost every showdown with the 777. This is because despite its excellent operating characteristics and popularity with travellers, the A340 — with only one engine — is available with only one engine, the CFM56 built jointly by Snecma of France and General Electric of the United States.



In an interview with a French trade magazine, Jean Pierson, president of Airbus, observed that in the absence of competition from other engine-makers, the Snecma/GE partners had proved reluctant to cut their prices.

During the hard-fought struggle to secure a \$2 billion-plus contract to equip Malaysian Airlines System with long-haul planes, this factor appears to have been decisive. Although MAS had already bought two A330s, it opted for the Boeing 777, rather than the A330's four-engine sibling. This showdown may prove decisive. With the MAS order in the bag, Boeing claims that since the 777 was launched in October 1990, the plane has achieved a market share in excess of 80 per cent.

In total, Boeing has won firm orders for 242 of its 777s. Airbus has secured 274 firm orders for the A330/340 range, while McDonnell Douglas has a total of 168 orders for its MD11 at the last count.

These orders are inevitably lumpy. But it is clearly Boeing that has been making the running among the new heavyweights during 1995 and the first few days of 1996. Until now, Boeing's success was partly political: President Bill Clinton lobbied heavily for airlines in Japan and Saudi Arabia to buy American planes. His influence over Saudi, the Saudi national airline, has helped to save McDonnell from being forced out of the civil jet arena. In China, another successful Boeing market, political clout also favours the American manufacturer.

But Asia is a battleground where price is king and it is the market of the future. According to Tajudin Ramli, the chairman of MAS, air passenger

numbers in the Asia Pacific region are expected to grow by 13 per cent a year during the next five years. By 2015, half the world's air traffic is expected to be from or to Pacific Asia. MAS's expansion is scaled simply to maintain its market share.

Efficient airlines cannot afford to operate a large variety of aircraft. So whichever manufacturer succeeds in selling planes now is likely to benefit from follow-on orders in the world's fastest expanding market. That is why Rolls-Royce, which claims its Trent 800 engine has been chosen for 60 per cent of the Boeing 777s ordered in Asia Pacific, is overjoyed at its latest coup.

Prices may be poor now but the orders will keep the company's Derby factory in work and hold out the prospect of repeat orders, at far more attractive profit margins.

But for Airbus, the MAS outcome points up the consortium's lack of competitiveness. British Aerospace, which builds the wings for all Airbus planes and holds a 20 per cent interest in the group, is cost-competitive. But its key partners, Aerospatiale of France and Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa) of Germany, are hamstringed by strong currencies and the high cost of shedding labour. As a result, Airbus has been slow to match the cost-cutting drive by arch-rival Boeing.

But the determination of the Airbus partners should not be underestimated. Airbus business accounts for £2 billion a year of revenues at BAe for its partners, who have more modest defence activities. Airbus is the core of their businesses. Boeing's resurgence may provide the impetus for the long-delayed restructuring of Airbus. A

review under way is expected to result in its Groupement d'Interet Economique status being abandoned in favour of corporate status. That would ease financing structures on its partners, and clear the way for price to take precedence in procurement and production decisions.

Airbus also appears increasingly determined to hit back in the market place by launching a stretched version of its A340 capable of breaking the monopoly enjoyed by Boeing's 747 in the jumbo market. By attacking Boeing's most profitable product, Airbus would reduce its capacity to discount in other sectors — or so the theory goes.

But Boeing is now on a roll. Its focus on costs has acquired an awesome momentum. More dangerous still for Airbus, it has prompted Boeing chiefs to contemplate the opportunities for efficiency gains across the entire United States civil aerospace industry.

Now, it appears, Boeing is no longer willing to wait until its Californian rival, McDonnell Douglas, makes a slow and graceful exit from civil jet manufacturing. The two companies have begun talks that could lead to a merger. There are attractions for both: Boeing dominates in civil jets, but McDonnell has the more formidable defence business. Its fighter jets include the F15 Eagle, the F18 Hornet, and the American version of the British Aerospace Harrier, while its Apache helicopter gunship has just been chosen by Britain and Holland.

Boeing's defence business has been secured by a massive order for the Osprey vertical take-off plane. But with the consolidation of the American military aerospace industry proceeding apace, Boeing cannot afford to be left on the sidelines. Losing the MAS order is one more defeat for Airbus in a campaign in which its enemy has regained the upper hand.

By 2015, half the world's air traffic is expected to be from or to Pacific Asia

The Exchange is an anachronism, argues Anthony Neuberger

Taking stock of a City institution



Down at the club: the Stock Exchange in the Sixties, before Big Bang

THE London Stock Exchange has lost two chief executives in the past three years. It has changed its name twice and looks like an organisation that has lost its way.

As an organisation it is now an anachronism. At the hub of a city that seeks to be the financial centre for much of the world, you might expect to find an entrepreneurial dynamic company. Instead one finds that most quaint of institutions, a members' cooperative.

The reason for its constitution lies in history. It was set up to provide a service to the various jobbers and brokers who traded shares at the end of the eighteenth century. They needed a trade association to standardise trading practices, fix commission rates and generally protect the interests of those involved in trading shares.

But times have changed. It is now almost ten years since the radical changes known as Big Bang occurred. The forces that led to Big Bang — including increasing competition from other markets — and the changes in membership and dealing methods have undermined the rationale for the Exchange's current governance structure. Members of the Exchange now no longer even meet at the club; they do their business over the telephone.

Before Big Bang, members of the Stock Exchange were small under-capitalised partnerships whose livelihood depended largely on the volume of trade going through London. They were not very concerned with costs and were indifferent to competition.

There were good reasons for having the Exchange as a cooperative institution. With its virtual monopoly on trading, there was an important public interest in regulation and a well-functioning market that might have been hard to delegate to a conventional commercial organisation. Rule changes might have drastic impact on member firms, with nowhere else to go it was reasonable that they should be involved in any decisions.

But Big Bang has changed much of that. With the Financial Services Act

we have a regulatory structure which has taken over many of the public interest functions of the Exchange. Member firms are no longer small partnerships whose survival depends on the Exchange, but major financial houses that operate on many different markets as well as more specialised stockbroking firms.

As Oliver Hart and John Moore, economists from Harvard and the London School of Economics, argue in a paper to be published this week *Hart and Moore, "Governance of Ex-*

changes: Members' Cooperatives versus Outside Ownership" (City Research Project, London Business School), member-owned exchanges have both strengths and weaknesses. A cooperative cannot work effectively unless its members share common interests. Those common interests no longer exist. The Exchange is facing major changes. Its de facto monopoly is vanishing; important decisions have to be made. The costs and benefits of alternative courses of action fall very differently between member firms.

Under such circumstances it is hard for an institution to act in a rational and coherent fashion.

The current argument about quote versus order based systems is a case in point. Most of the world's equity markets act as clearing houses where buyers' and sellers' orders are crossed. London is unusual in the central role it gives to market-makers, members of the Exchange who buy from anyone who wants to sell and sell to anyone who wants to buy. The Exchange has been trying to take some steps to make it easier for people to trade without going through market-makers.

The Exchange will need to spend money to implement the changes. Member firms will have to spend a lot of money to enable them to use the new system. Some important member firms are likely to lose from the changes. They ask, understandably, why they should agree to their club using their capital to undermine its own members.

A club of providers is not a good way of delivering a service that has to change flexibly and speedily to the changing needs of its end-users. If the Exchange were constituted as a separate entity it could decide whether to risk its own capital to change and adapt the trading system. Decisions would be taken on their commercial merits.

I am arguing in effect for the privatisation of the Exchange. The Swedish Stock Exchange is privately owned; so is Tradepoint, which has recently set up in competition with the London Stock Exchange. I do not believe that a private sector solution will inevitably lead to the most efficient solution. Rather, I believe that the experience of privatisation has shown that a competitive environment in which independent companies risk their own capital and deal at arms length with each other leads to better decisions and a better service to users. Anthony Neuberger is assistant professor of finance at the London Business School and is also chairman of the market advisory panel of Trend-Int.



Some things Tony Blair might mean

What's the Big Idea? Tony Blair's latest slogan, snakeholding, is still vague (which is surely deliberate); but it does at least sound like something that might be explained with a working diagram, rather than set to music by Vangelis. So those with literary minds are getting quite excited; indeed, the vagueness is an encouragement; it invites one to put up some concrete ideas. Those that follow are all my own guesswork, but they might fit.

What sort of stake? What, in other words, is the difference between a community of stakeholders and a nation of shareholders? The same, plausibly, as that between market punters and the members of a company pension plan. That would be why it was unveiled in Singapore, the pioneer of the state-sponsored provident fund. It could be a good brand name for reformed social security; and the idea appealing in its own right. It implies levelling up, and solves the problem of pension portability, which should help labour market flexibility.

Above all, it offers a way to abolish the employment tax imposed by existing state benefit plans. This tax helps to explain high unemployment in the core EU countries. The difficulty is the age old dilemma: how to get there from here. What we have now is essentially a pay-as-you-go scheme; so for a long period stakeholders would have, it seems, to go on paying for existing pensions, on top of buying their new stake. Please do not write in to explain that this is a mere accounting problem: all pensions, funded or not, are a charge on current output. The point is not arithmetical, but psychological: people will willingly pay much more to acquire property than to finance what they regard as their rights in the first place. But the bridging arithmetic remains obstinate.

How to cope? Some optimists argue the return on equity is so high that a provident fund could bear both burdens — especially since the growth of the fund would drive the market to Japanese levels. Up to a point, Lord Copper. The

trouble is that however good the returns from a Blair fund, they would look miserably if it was burdened, compared with what the private sector could offer. It would look like a failure. A transition which could avoid this would be so long that stakeholding would not be winning elections until about 2025: hardly the sort of Big Idea that Blair is seeking.

Very well: charge old-fashioned state pensions social security to the tax account, rather than social security. But can we then avoid higher taxes, as promised? There are ways, but they do not look adequate. Take that Labour favourite, the Cost of Failure: raise employment, they say, and save a fortune on benefits. Well, yes; and stakeholding, squeezing out the employment tax, would help. But there is a snag: the saving from getting one person back to work would cover, roughly, a married couple's pension. There are not, thank goodness, enough unemployed to make the sums add up.

Save on other spending? That looks better. The most tempting column in any public spending White Paper is headed "Tax Expenditures": in lay language, loopholes. The Tories have reduced mortgage tax relief, once the biggest, to a trickle, and gone on winning elections, so why stop there? All existing saving "incentives" (which have not raised savings, but diverted them) could be subsumed in the Big Idea. Pension fund exemptions, Peps and Tassas... Now we're talking real money. Something like this is surely pencilled in: you read it here first.

Pension reform is not the only fiscal burden to face in the long run, old revenue takes over. It will probably fade away while Blair is still young enough to be Prime Minister. The Big Idea, privatising retirement, will meet that timetable neatly; but will ex-coll revenues be adequate, or will we be revisiting high top rates, or wealth tax, or Labour policy? Or even a land tax, which should have been? The only comfort is there should be lots of time to find out.

BUSINESS LETTERS

The real need for universal service

From M. C. Martin
Sir, I am pleased to see in your Pennington column and elsewhere that a public discussion of universal service has begun. However, I am alarmed that the basic need for Universal Service is being overshadowed by peripheral matters.

The primary concern for universal service is reflected in OfTel's definition of it, which is "Affordable access to basic voice telephony (or its equivalent) for all those reasonably requesting it regardless of where they live." This contains the two most important elements of the concept, firstly being able to have an ordinary telephone wherever you live at the same cost as everyone else and secondly for those who currently cannot access the telephone network due to disability to be able to do so.

The arguments on access for schools to the information highway are in my opinion not about universal service but about education. Those who have the real need for universal service are disabled people currently barred from using the telephone due to their disability. The discussion overlooks the fact that a per-

son in school or in the remotest part of the country can use the telephone. A disabled person in the middle of London would be unable to use a telephone because of the lack of appropriate facilities which are technically available today. This is what the universal service fund should finance and without it these facilities will never be made available. The cost of providing facilities appears to be less than 0.5 per cent of the annual turnover of BT and in our opinion should be financed by all telecom operators. This discussion however may be overtaken by EU directives. Finally BT should receive clear recognition for the substantial support it has given to services for disabled people. COST 219 is a pan European project concerned with telecommunications and telecommunications for disabled and elderly people.

Yours faithfully,
M. C. MARTIN
(Chairman),
COST 219 UK Liaison Group,
Gerrards,
Hill House Hill,
Liphook, Hampshire.

Give school-leavers lessons in world of work

From Mr John Garlick
Sir, In response to John Howells' call for action to counter the vulnerability to unemployment of 16 and 17-year-olds (Business News, January 2), I have a solution. Give every youngster a four-week placement in business in their last year of schooling. If we are serious about preparing young people for the world of work, we must make the experience worthwhile and of sufficient interest that they see for themselves the personal qualities employers regard as

important. Qualifications are generally no more than the starting point in the job recruitment and selection process. Inter-personal and communication skills together with the ability to manage themselves and their work are at least equally important. Yours faithfully,
JOHN GARLICK
(Manager),
Windsor Slough Education Business Partnership,
Old Crown Building,
Windsor Road,
Slough, Berkshire.

Merger of airports in Belfast is blocked

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A PLANNED merger of Belfast's two airports was blocked on competition grounds yesterday by the Government.

John Taylor, the Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, said that the proposed takeover of Belfast City Airport by Belfast International Airport would lead to higher airport charges and increased passenger fares.

The move leaves Belfast City, which has been put up for sale by its owner, the Short Brothers aerospace company, without a buyer. An earlier bidder, Sarcon Diamond, withdrew its £24 million offer last June.

Short Brothers said that Belfast City remained on the market and that it was continuing discussions with a number of interested parties.

Mr Taylor's decision came after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry found that the proposed takeover would lead to "less choice for airlines and passengers and

the failure to develop the City airport to its full potential."

Jim Dorman, managing director of the former government-owned Belfast International, which was bought out by its management last year, said that he was "disappointed" at the decision to block the takeover. "We will be considering our options but for now it is business as usual," he said.

If successful, the takeover was expected to lead to major rationalisation of the ageing City airport, which comprises two gloomy converted aircraft hangars in the harbour area of Northern Ireland's capital. The referral was seen by the industry as a test case for future moves by regional airports to acquire rival operators.

Both airports have enjoyed a boom in passenger numbers since the announcement of the takeover in September 1994, with Belfast International, which is also known as Aldergrove, setting new records for passenger numbers last year.

Passenger traffic through the airport was up 15 per cent at 2.3 million and cargo volume was up 13 per cent. It serves London Heathrow, Amsterdam, Boston and New York, as well as a number of regional cities in the UK, and is the main airport for charter flights in the province.

Belfast City Airport serves only UK destinations, such as Manchester, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Leeds as well as London Stansted, and was used by 1.3 million passengers last year.

Airlines using the two Belfast airports, which had been mostly opposed to the merger, welcomed yesterday's decision.

"We welcome what has been an in-depth and serious inquiry regarding ownership of the major airline gateways into Northern Ireland," a spokesman for Air Belfast said.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission report found that the proposed acquisition "may be expected to operate against the public interest and should not be permitted."

Mr Taylor said that he accepted the MMC's findings and concluded that "only prohibition will ensure that the adverse effects are prevented."

The merger plans were referred to the MMC in May last year when Belfast International made an indicative offer to Short for the rival airport and some adjacent land.

Rolls-Royce car sales rise 10%

By OUR CITY STAFF

VICKERS, the UK defence and engineering group, said its Rolls-Royce car subsidiary raised worldwide sales 10 per cent to 1,550 vehicles in 1995.

In the key UK market, sales rose 7 per cent to 493 vehicles compared with 1994. There was a similar rise in continental Europe, where the number of cars sold was 230.

The biggest sales rise took place in the Americas, where sales jumped 25 per cent to 420 cars. In Japan Vickers sold 121 cars, an increase of 4 per cent. The only disappointment was in the Middle East, where sales dipped 5 per cent to 71 cars. Other overseas sales accounted for 221 cars.

The 1995 sales figures were well received by investors and shares in Vickers advanced 15p to 272p. Speculation persists that Vickers will eventually seek a buyer for Rolls-Royce to concentrate on its core defence and engineering businesses.



Revenue from North Sea oil in the month of November rose by 24 per cent to £28.6 million per day as a result of higher Brent crude prices

Dearer crude oil lifts North Sea revenue as output eases

NORTH Sea oil output eased in November but an increase in the price of Brent crude left revenue from oil 24 per cent higher than in October (Martin Barrow writes).

Oil production fell by 81,000 barrels per day (bpd) in November to average 2.66 million bpd, reflecting a 15 per cent decline from BP's Magnus field and a 67 per cent fall in Shell's Cormorant A field.

The Royal Bank of Scotland's Oil and Gas Index reports that revenue from oil rose 24 per cent to £28.6 million a day because of

higher Brent crude prices. The dollar Brent crude averaged \$16.82 per barrel in November, 4.5 per cent higher than in the previous month, although the dollar weakened one per cent against the pound.

The onset of winter saw North Sea gas output surge by 51 per cent to 8,551 million cubic feet per day, which was

25 per cent higher than in November 1994. Gas revenues rose £5.17 million to £15.86 million per day during November, which is about 28 per cent higher than 12 months ago. Gas sales were helped not only by the weather but also by increasing demand for electricity generation.

Combined oil and gas revenues rose by £5.8 million to average £44.47 million per day, an 8.2 per cent increase year-on-year.

Mark Shea, energy economist at the Royal Bank, said: "After a quiet year we have seen the markets really pick up because of the recent cold spell, which demonstrates the importance of oil and its

products, not only to the financial markets but also in economies around the globe."

In December a strong spell of buying saw crude oil and refined product prices move up to some of the highest levels seen in 1995, said Mr Shea.

The Brent crude 15-day price reached \$19 per barrel on December 27, having spent most of the year trading within a range of \$16 to \$18 a barrel. Because of extreme weather in America, prices for prompt delivery of Brent crude have gone over \$20 per barrel.

Accountants seek stronger penalties to deal with fraud

By ROBERT BRUCE

COMPANY law should be strengthened so that fraud can be prosecuted faster and more simply, an auditing body has told the Government.

In *Taking Fraud Seriously*, a report launched yesterday, the audit faculty of the Institute of Chartered Accountants says penalties for deceiving auditors should be raised.

Section 389A of the Companies Act 1985 carries a maximum prison sentence of two years. The faculty suggests this should be raised to five years and coverage of the law should widen to include anybody working within the company being audited.

Martyn Jones of Touche Ross, the accountant, said: "We have seen just how long it can take for a prosecution to define the fraud and prove criminality. We need straightforward laws where it would be enough that if you could prove a lie then you could gain a prosecution." Section 389A relies on the basis of "knowingly deceiving an auditor". This could be the key to gaining speedy prosecutions,

the faculty believes. It also wants a new civil penalty to allow a company to sue anyone who knowingly deceives an auditor for any damage or loss that might arise.

The faculty calls for a new Fraud Advisory Panel to be set up as an independent standing body. This panel would provide a forum for discussion and improve co-operation between government, law enforcement, the private sector and other interested parties. It would also be responsible for increasing overall awareness of the fraud problem.

Tony Bingham of Coopers & Lybrand, who headed the working party producing the report, said: "Fraud is a major problem for business, industry and the City. It affects everybody, the general public and stakeholders in business. It is a common problem which needs a joint response."

The faculty says maintaining the status quo is not an option; there is a need to ensure fraudsters know they will be penalised and more effective action needs to be taken.

BTR talks to Gencorp about sale

By ALAN DAIR MURRAY

BTR, the industrial conglomerate, is in talks with Gencorp, the American technology company, over acquisition of the US company's vibration control business, which makes components for cars and light trucks.

BTR, which wants to strengthen its worldwide automotive businesses, said that it had begun preliminary talks, but no price was disclosed.

Gencorp makes defence, automotive and polymer products and has annual sales of about \$1.7 billion. The automotive division had a turnover of \$577 million last year. Gencorp incurred a loss of \$226 million last year and has made a series of disposals in the past few months.

On Monday, BTR said it had bought Metalurgia Carto, a Brazilian automotive component company, for an undisclosed sum. Metalurgia has a turnover of about \$60 million a year. The deal was the latest in a series of tactical moves into the Latin American car component market.

European credit quality shows big improvement

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CREDIT quality across Europe improved dramatically last year with far fewer companies, banks and governments suffering a downgrade in credit ratings than in 1994.

According to Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, 37 organisations were downgraded last year and 34 were upgraded. In 1994 there were five times as many downgrades as upgrades.

A credit rating agency's organisation's ability to raise debt through the issue of bonds or commercial paper.

George Dallas, managing director of S&P's European operations, said the generally improved economic environment would help ratings this year. He said: "In the context of a low-growth, low-inflation environment, from a credit perspective, it should have positive implications."

But he added that the higher number of mergers and acquisitions in 1995 was expected to continue this year, "which tends to have negative implications because acquisitions do come with debt finance".

S&P added that competitive pressure would force down financial institutions' ratings.

The overall trend in bank ratings last year was down, with 16 upgrades and 20 downgrades and looks likely to continue in that direction, said S&P. More than half the downgrades were of French and Italian banks, which are suffering because of the poor French property market and patchy performance of the Italian economy. The number of upgrades was bolstered by merger and acquisition activity among UK banks and building societies. S&P said a quarter of the upgrades were the result of takeovers of weaker banks or building societies by higher-rated parents.

Improving finances helped public-sector ratings. All seven rating actions on governments last year were upgrades. The trend for corporations was more negative, with 16 downgrades and ten upgrades. The UK electricity industry and European pharmaceuticals sector saw a large number of downgrades.

Leisure group back on track

The benefits of a refinancing that was completed a year ago helped Tomorrow's Leisure, the hotels and leisure group that is quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, to continue its recovery, although interim profits were held back by the hot summer weather and restructuring costs.

The company reported pre-tax profits of £29,000 in the 26 weeks to October 1, compared with a loss of £125,000 last time. Turnover from continuing operations fell to £44 million (£45 million), with the drop being blamed on the adverse effects of the hot weather on the group's indoor leisure facilities.

Significant pre-opening costs allowed the Hellaby Hall Hotel near Sheffield to make a small profit of £29,000, compared with a loss of £399,000 last time. Interest charges were cut to £140,000 (£162,000), with gearing down to 26 per cent (33 per cent), reflecting the benefits of the financial reconstruction. There were negligible earnings, compared with a 1p a share loss last time. Again, there is no dividend.

Peter Dawson, chairman, is cautiously optimistic on prospects in spite of uncertain economic conditions. The shares added 1p to 75p.

Speedy Hire acquisition

Allen, the construction and plant hire company, said that its subsidiary, Speedy Hire Centres (Northern), had acquired Rental for £1.325 million. Rental hires small tools and equipment to building contractors, industrial companies, and do-it-yourself enthusiasts. It operates from eight outlets.

The acquisition has been funded through a share placing, raising £1.327 million. The Rental acquisition and the reorganisation of Allen's plant hire division will increase to 99 the number of outlets operating under the Speedy name. Allen shares were unchanged at 223p yesterday, against the 214p placing price.

VHE suffers profit fall

VHE Holdings, the specialist contractor operating in land reclamation and civil engineering, is passing the payment of an interim dividend after suffering a decline in pre-tax profits to £1.196 million from £2.05 million in the six months to the end of September.

Earnings fell to 2.5p a share from 4.3p. Brian Waldron, the chairman, said that he was generally optimistic about full-year prospects. The order book stood at £26 million at October 1, 1995, up from £20 million 12 months earlier. The shares fell 1p to 64p.

New Tarmac finance chief

Chris Bunker, 49, is to be the next finance director of Tarmac, the construction group. He will succeed Terry Mason, who retires from the post on February 15. At present, Mr Bunker is finance director of Westland Group.

Mr Mason, who has been with Tarmac for 30 years, will remain an executive director until the end of 1996, assuming responsibility for special projects. These will include the integration of the quarrying and aggregates businesses of George Wimpey, which were acquired through an asset swap in November.

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A YEAR'S FREE HEALTH CLUB MEMBERSHIP



Enjoy a free day at a health club

AN INTRODUCTION to a health club is an ideal way to start a fitter lifestyle. And today *The Times* invites readers to spend a free day at one of the 73 health clubs throughout the UK who are participating in this offer (a full list was published on Monday).

Exercise not only helps to keep your body young and supple, it is also good for the heart, lungs and circulation — and it makes you feel good. So this is a great chance to start shaping a new you.

As our guest you will be given a free fitness assessment, free use of most facilities at the club, such as its swimming pool, sauna, steam room, aerobics classes or gym.

By taking up our offer of a free day at a participating health club, you will automatically be entered into a prize draw to receive a free one-year membership to the club of your choice. A total of 880,000 worth of free memberships is available.

HOW TO BOOK YOUR FREE FITNESS DAY

Collect four of the six tokens appearing daily until Saturday and attach them to the voucher published in Monday's paper. Book your free day by telephone first, quoting *The Times* offer. The voucher, which must be presented to the club when you visit, is valid for one visit to one club. This offer is valid until February 29, 1996.

THE TIMES
FREE HEALTH CLUB VISIT
TOKEN 3

Bespak moves back into black

By MARTIN BARROW

BESPAK, the medical devices company that incurred heavy losses after provisions last year, returned to profit in the first half of the current year and expressed confidence that the recovery would continue.

The company said a strong performance in the UK and a return to profitability in America helped achieve profits of £3.5 million before tax in the 26 weeks to October 27.

Bespak earned £3 million before tax in the first half of the previous year, but full-year figures were blighted by an exceptional charge of £18.6 million against an ill-fated contract with America's Innova Biomed. The contract, which guarantees the payment of minimum royalties by Bespak, is the subject of talks between the companies.

First-half earnings were 9.2p a share, rising from 7.9p. But the interim dividend is held at 4.2p a share. The shares rose 10p to 325p yesterday.

Bespak's main business is

the development and supply of drug delivery devices to the respiratory drug industry. It also supplies fluid control valves and dispensing pump products.

Group turnover rose to £35.7 million from £31.8 million and operating profits improved to £3.6 million from £3.2 million. In the UK, operating profits rose 32 per cent to £3 million, with margins advancing to 12.9 per cent from 11.5 per cent.

The restructuring of US operations, which incurred losses of £1.3 million in the second half of last year, began to take effect. Operating profits were £500,000 in the first half, compared with £800,000 last time.

The level of working capital has been maintained despite the 12.3 per cent rise in sales. Capital investment was up 80 per cent to £3.5 million and gearing has fallen to 7.1 per cent from 13.9 per cent at the end of the last financial year.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

BEK TRADING COMPANY LIMITED
In the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, Commercial Court.
Notice is hereby given that the above company, which is a company registered in England, has been placed into liquidation by order of the court, dated 27th November 1995. The liquidator is Mr. J. H. B. Smith, of 15, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

RETRIVA (UK) LIMITED
In the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, Commercial Court.
Notice is hereby given that the above company, which is a company registered in England, has been placed into liquidation by order of the court, dated 27th November 1995. The liquidator is Mr. J. H. B. Smith, of 15, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

GRANDVIEW RESOURCES LIMITED
In the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, Commercial Court.
Notice is hereby given that the above company, which is a company registered in England, has been placed into liquidation by order of the court, dated 27th November 1995. The liquidator is Mr. J. H. B. Smith, of 15, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

Chit Telecom Limited
In the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, Commercial Court.
Notice is hereby given that the above company, which is a company registered in England, has been placed into liquidation by order of the court, dated 27th November 1995. The liquidator is Mr. J. H. B. Smith, of 15, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

GEDARACH LIMITED
In the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, Commercial Court.
Notice is hereby given that the above company, which is a company registered in England, has been placed into liquidation by order of the court, dated 27th November 1995. The liquidator is Mr. J. H. B. Smith, of 15, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

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0171-782 7344

OR

FAX: 0171-782 7827

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Equities fail to keep early gains

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First National	100.00	+1.0	John Lewis	100.00	+1.0
Halifax	90.00	+1.1	Next	90.00	+1.1
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John Lewis	100.00	+1.0	John Lewis	100.00	+1.0
Next	90.00	+1.1	Next	90.00	+1.1
Primark	80.00	+1.2	Primark	80.00	+1.2
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John Lewis	100.00	+1.0	John Lewis	100.00	+1.0
Next	90.00	+1.1	Next	90.00	+1.1
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هذه امين الرحمن



■ OPERA

Covent Garden under TV scrutiny and under the lash: can Jeremy Isaacs steer round the wreckage?



■ DANCE

Hampered by underpowered principals, ENB gives a limp account of *Swan Lake*

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ THEATRE 1

The raddled founders of the National Trust are laid bare in *Fav'rite Nation* at the Lyric



■ THEATRE 2

... while *Damn Yankees*, with its Faustian pacts on the baseball field, is barely revived at the Bridewell

The Royal Opera House, soon to be laid bare on BBC TV, is fighting for its future, says Rodney Milnes

Will the Garden ever bloom again?

A six-part series about the Royal Opera House starting on BBC2 next Tuesday — and it is essential viewing both as a brilliant piece of documentary film-making and for the insights it provides into a much misunderstood institution. It is billed as the portrait of "a turbulent year". As Jeremy Isaacs ruefully remarked at a press showing, the 1993-94 season when Michael Waldman's cameras were given a free run of the building was actually rather a calm year, even ending with a small surplus: if they really wanted turbulence, they should be filming now. Indeed, but the roots of this week's dramas are already there, clearly exposed for all to see.

"Fly on the wall" is the term commonly used to describe Waldman's technique. Little is sacred, and after a month or two, people in the theatre must have forgotten the cameras were there. Many are caught off-guard, some are so relaxed as to be indiscreet: the chief commissioner's revelation of what goes on in the boxes is especially intriguing. So that's what opera does to people.

Enough heroes and villains are exposed here for a dozen operas. Among the heroes are Bernard Haitink, whose conducting of the closing bars of *Meistersinger* tells you in a few seconds what the Opera House is all about, and whose sigh and resigned gesture at first sight of the *Ring* sets is a moment of uncomfortable truth.

There's the scene painter dispensing eternal verities while slapping paint on an *Aida* backdrop. There's the Australian stagehand, the only female in the crew, telling us what she has to put up with. There's the chairman, Sir Angus Stirling, who traditionally comes on as Mr Nice Guy, being tough at a board meeting ("absolutely catastrophic") — or is he just acting tough? The camera is equivocal.

Then there are the potential anti-heroes. Baroness Blackstone has a point at the same meeting, but there are ways of making points other than the headmistress. The Hecklers who sought to disrupt *Birchcliffe* performances are ruthlessly shown to be a bunch of prats. Jim Monahan of the Covent Garden Community Association, who has made a career out of opposing the house's redevelopment, does not come across well.

Most alarming of all is Keith Cooper, director of corporate affairs, who — fairly or unfairly — comes across as a peculiarly nasty bit of work, making insulting personal remarks about members of staff on camera, sacking two of them, losing his temper and throwing a telephone on the floor.

There are real-life dramas: Dorey Bussell only just getting through the first night of *Sleeping Beauty* in Washington. She was off injured for months afterwards. The squamish may wish to avert their gaze from the surgeon's knife going into dancer Michael Nunn's foot, but there is a happy end: Nunn dances again. Ballerina Fiona Chadwick's contract is not renewed, and she tells the camera what she feels about it. A horse falls through the set of *Katya Kabanova*, and has to be rescued in the only moment of obvious panic in six hours.



Happier times: the Royal Opera House's director, Jeremy Isaacs, and chairman, Sir Angus Stirling, celebrate Covent Garden's successful bid for lottery money last July

There is some telling cross-cutting. Sackings are agreed while *Carmen* is staged on stage. A black family from south London attending a Hamlyn week reduced-price performance is spectacularly misdirected to cheap gallery slips by toffish ushers — cut to Denyce Graves, the black star on stage. The decision on which little girl from the Royal Ballet School is to play Clara on the first night of *Nutcracker* is cross-cut with tortuous industrial relations negotiations. The froth of "a star-is-born" (the winning Clara is enchanting) is seen in stark juxtaposition with the backstage realities that make it all possible.

There is much doubt as to whether this exposure will help or harm the Opera House. Truth, surely, can only help. The public perception is probably of an organisation idly sitting around deciding how much to pay Pavarotti (and then charge the public). Here we see an enormously complex operation employing over a thousand volatile, skilled professionals, three companies churning out many more performances than comparable theatres in Europe for about half the money.

The opera boss Nicholas Payne outlines his constant battle of wits with the board: his brief is to provide interesting repertoire, while they would be happier with endless revivals of *Tosca*. "They're going to try and cut another million quid out of my budget," he says, on the way to

a board meeting, mug of black coffee in hand. "It's on occasions like this when I wish I hadn't given up smoking." He freely admits to the artistic price paid for cost-cutting, like 14 disastrous performances of a *Magic Flute* bought in cheaply to save on a new production.

Towering over all is the strangely isolated figure of Jeremy Isaacs, something of a tragic hero. He has inexhaustible passion for opera and ballet and persists in trying to supply them with no help from anyone "up there". He is seen to be on kissing terms with Norma Major, but this is not transformed into government support. His frustration is vividly shown in an encounter with a Terry Dickson-style taxi driver: he cannot explain, or is tired of trying, the *Alles in Wonderland* situation whereby what looks like a vast sum of public money is inadequate, and he has to put up seat prices just to keep the doors open, thereby appearing to cater only for the well-heeled, or "toffs" in tabloid-speak.

Episode six shows this vividly: corporate entertainment rampant, with sponsors boasting of the house's exclusivity and blithely unconcerned at the use of public money to make it so; Vivien Duffield bringing her own decorators in for a

gala ("no one in the Opera House dares say no to Mrs Duffield") but failing to raise money to save school matinees; preparations for an *Aida* sponsored by P&O, with the Majors and the Heseltines in attendance. P&O have chipped in with £250,000, which apparently gives them the right to argue about the size of their logo on the programme.

It is an Arts Council apparatchik who suggests closure?

In fact the largest slice of Opera House income comes from the box-office. The Arts Council grant accounts for only 27 per cent, in which case what right does the Arts Council have to take so bullying and patronising a stance in its relations with the Opera House? The fly-on-the-wall sequences

here are chilling — art doesn't enter into it. It is an Arts Council apparatchik who, with barely concealed gloe, raises the idea of shutting down the opera and ballet during the three-year closure for redevelopment, thus saving £40 million. Isaacs barely keeps his temper, and even the suave deputy chairman of the board, Sir James Spunner, looks rattled.

This is raw, living drama. Isaacs loses his cool at a preliminary meeting with his "P&O" it, you can't provide the arts in this country on the basis of the least-cost option; the least-cost option is no art." And that

with a voice-over announcing the subsequent lottery grant for redevelopment and the warning that the struggle for public approval is far from over, is the end of *The House*.

Where are we today? The "no art" option is very much open. The Opera House's famous spin-doctor, Keith Cooper, screwed up both the lottery application and the announcement of its success, falling into every trap laid by the tabloids. Opera and Covent Garden suddenly became the dirtiest words in the English language; the junking of the Cardiff Bay Opera House is a direct result. It must be left to future historians to analyse the reasons for the tidal wave of philistinism sweeping over Britain in the last years of the present century.

The Arts Council now appears to be an instrument of government policy following the abandonment of the arts-length principle, presiding over the dismantling of the arts rather than their encouragement. In the circumstances Isaacs had little choice but to gamble all on the Tower Bridge theatre as a home during closure. That seems to have fared better. The workers are understandably growing restless, expressing no confidence in management. Sponsorship has collapsed, there is resistance to box-office prices for everything save *Tosca*, the Arts Council grant plummeted: the amazing Mrs Bottomley promised no cuts on spending on the arts one month, and lopped £5 million off the Arts Council grant the next.

Management, in this case Cooper, announces the slashing of productions and 10 per cent redundancies, with his own wholly redundant job presumably not at the top of the hit-list. Isaacs goes next year, so does Haitink, the brightest jewel in the ROH crown, and the theatre closes. Stirling retires this year. Into this vacuum, which the arts abhor as much as nature, what? The "no art" option looms.

If the companies ceased operation for three years, the Royal Ballet dancers would find other jobs and the company simply disappear, and with it 70 years of proud endeavour. Haitink's orchestra and chorus would vanish. It might be possible after three years' closure to reconstruct some sort of artistically negligible Royal Opera engaging whichever of the three tenors can still sing. But simply in terms of human resources — the resources so joyfully hymned in Waldman's documentary — the option is unthinkable, or so it seemed until recently.

Most agree that the Government is in terminal decline. It would be tragic if it were allowed to drag with it half a century of artistic success achieved in the face of formidable odds. Oh, and Lord Gowrie, solid chairman of the Arts Council, has been notable for his absence and silence. Knock knock, is there anybody there?

● The House begins on BBC2 next Tuesday at 9.30pm

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on a patchy tribute to the National Trust and a foul ball of a baseball musical

No thanks for this memory

Fav'rite Nation
Lyric Studio, W6

EMPTY Space Theatre is presenting Robin Brooks's *Fav'rite Nation* for the best of reasons. It wants to celebrate the National Trust's centenary and, as its pre-publicity claims, to raise "some hard questions about its direction and purpose today". But whether that noble organisation should be grateful is a nice question.

If the play suggests anything, it is that the National Trust was inspired and founded by people whose personal lives were a frightful mess. You could almost conclude that the best way it could renew its sense of "direction and purpose" for its second century would be to take a look at its recruiting policies, and, although this mainly lies in the future, great estates acquired for the nation. She has her author's admiration, but he also makes it clear that she ends up a bit like gristle that has gone through a mincer: tough but mangled.

Both Brooks's script and Andrew Holmes's production

Octavia Hill, whose heart belongs to the ageing John Ruskin, who in turn rejects her for the still younger Rose La Touche.

For reasons that are never clear, Rose called the art critic and social reformer "St Crumpey"; he apparently remained obsessed with her as she grew from an Alice into an anorectic Lolita. She died young; he retired, half-mad, to stare at hills and water in the Lake District.

Peter Glancy's Ruskin winces and quivers about the near-bare stage; an odd, interesting mix of the sensitive, prickly, generous, selfish, impressively fiery and utterly impractical. Meanwhile, Philippa Williams's humble yet doughy Hill is the one who ensures that houses for the poor get built, open spaces protected, and, although this mainly lies in the future, great estates acquired for the nation. She has her author's admiration, but he also makes it clear that she ends up a bit like gristle that has gone through a mincer: tough but mangled.



Peter Glancy, Mufrida Hayes and Philippa Williams fight for posterity in Empty Space's revival of *Fav'rite Nation*

could do with sharpening and tightening. There is a lack of tension, as well as a certain looseness of structure. Why, for instance, do we see so much of Tom Coulthard as the children's writer George MacDonald? Just because he was a friend of Ruskin's? Or because his steady good sense and relatively conventional lifestyle make a contrast with the critics' oddities? Or to remind us that the questing Victorian spirit could take many different shapes? Whatever the explanation, his bulky, genial

figure never fully earns its dramatic keep. Coulthard also plays one Edward Bond, who (as if you did not know) is not a ferocious 20th-century playwright of Marxist dye, but a 19th-century mother's boy feebly enamoured of Octavia.

The acting is fine, the staging excellent in its minimalist way, and Empty Space is once again to be congratulated for its enterprise in picking an unusual subject. But has it made the most of its choice? No, not quite.

Out on Faust base

Damn Yankees
Bridewell

IT'S great to have genius of course, but keep that old horse before the cart — you gotta have heart. That is the defiantly anti-intellectual refrain of a chorus of baseball players, fans, housewives and devils as the curtain falls on Richard Adler and Jerry Ross's musical. It is, however, a song that raises as many questions as it answers, for the hero's heart has spent the evening pulling him in opposite directions.

Which is more important, the success of the baseball team you support or the security of hearth and home? That is the choice which faces middle-aged real-estate salesman Joe Boyd. When Satan offers him the chance to become a young sporting hero and restore the fortunes of his beloved Washington Senators, he barely hesitates. But socking homers into the Potomac does not compensate for the loss of his wife, who lives only for him and her bridge club, and he starts to reconsider the bargain. Can you imagine a more American dilemma, especially in 1995, when the show first hit Broadway?

I must say that I could not have cared less. Indeed, I kept wishing good old Joe would solve his and my problems by heating himself to death with his baseball bat. Carol Me-

calfe's revival is a game effort, and pretty ambitious for a smallish fringe theatre; but it cannot conceal the fact that this is not a musical that shrinks well. *Damn Yankees* seems small, skimpy and awesomely sentimental.

It goes without saying that there is little chance of recreating the smell of the stadium, or the thrill of the game, on a plain stage surrounded mostly by amateurishly painted period ads. Nor has it the blend of skill and zip needed to bring off a production number. The pluses, such as they are, are nice tunes, passable lyrics and the odd decent performance.

Peter Gale makes a sly, smirking demon, and Liz Izen has her moments as the vampish, she-devil who, in a twist typical of the evening, throws to her victim because he is "such a good loyal dumb ordinary man". And Daniel Brown's young Joe certainly justifies her write-up. He is a clean-cut cross between Barbie's friend Ken and Clark Kent on a news-free afternoon: just what the show demands, and just what makes it intolerable.

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■ TOMORROW

We know it has lots of flesh, but is *Showgirls* any good? Read Geoff Brown on the new films

Kenneth Rea on a celebration of mime, and how physical artists are fighting the spread of armchair theatre

Putting body talk back on the boards

The future of the theatre is in mime. I am not suggesting that all actors should be condemned to silence, but consider the spectrum of work that goes under the umbrella of mime and its offshoot, physical theatre. What the best of it has in common is a concern to balance words and actions on stage — more or less what Shakespeare had in mind. And for that matter, Aeschylus, Molière, Goldoni and Brecht, too.

On the other hand, go to almost any West End play today and you will see people largely sitting about, talking. Occasionally they might get up and pour themselves a drink or wave a pistol at someone. But the event could as well take place on television, or even on radio.

The issue is both important and urgent, because, given crisis levels of funding in the arts, if the theatre is to survive the millennium, it must stake out its true territory. It must do what television cannot.

This is why the London International Mime Festival, which begins on Friday, is so essential: it is our annual reminder that the actor is the centre of the theatre, and that the body, not just the voice, is the actor's instrument.

This year's festival is characterised by its provocative diversity. Nola Rae directing seven Swedish clowns in a version of Lorca's tragedy *The House of Bernarda Alba* is one thing, but what is Pina Bausch's former dramaturg, Raimund Hoghe, his haunting requiem for the victims of Nazi oppression? The solo performance is full of compelling images but certainly has no mime.

Counterbalancing the mime and Day-Glo dazzle of Cirque du Soleil's thrilling *Salimbanco* (currently packing the Albert Hall), the French troupe Rasposo recreates the quieter magic of an 18th-century circus, set to the music of Mozart and Vivaldi. Twenty

groups will take part in the festival.

The past ten years have seen huge changes in our theatrical landscape. One of the most startling is that the mime field has been steadily absorbed by the mainstream. To take two examples, the maverick Steven Berkoff is now almost part of the Establishment, while Theatre de Complicité can regularly fill the National Theatre.

There is now a clear trend of

6 Good mime training can return some dignity to an actor

directors such as Mike Alfreds, Declan Donnellan, Stephen Daldry and Katie Mitchell bringing with them to the national theatres a more physical style of performance, which means fewer chairs on stage.

Take Simon Callow's directorial debut with the Royal Shakespeare Company later this month. He has chosen to adapt the famous 1945 film *Les Enfants du Paradis*, which centres on the 19th-century mime Debureau.

Mime at the RSC? What is Callow, a man of words, up to? "I can't pretend I'm doing it in order to revive the art of mime," he says. "It's an exploration of romantic love within a theatrical context. But the whole piece does require a tremendous level of physical commitment, which is why I've had everybody do the mime classes."

Giving the RSC actors their crash course in mime is Steven Wasson, who was for many years the assistant to Etienne Decroux, the father of modern mime and the man who devised the pantomime se-

quences for the film. "What a good mime training can do is to enliven and give back some of the dignity to an actor," claims Wasson.

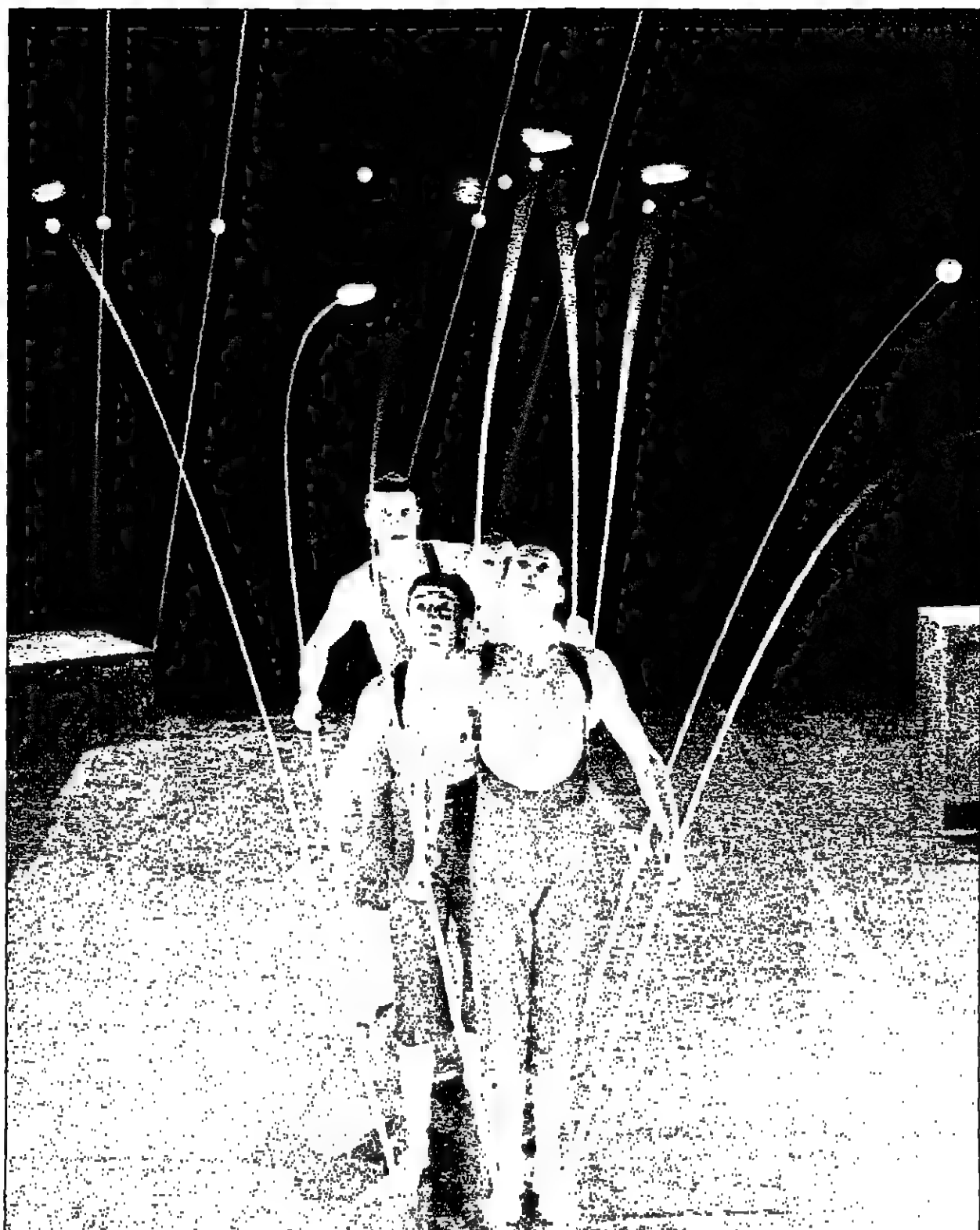
"I have a lot of confidence in mime because I think a more physically orientated theatre is the future. Even at the RSC. What happened with mime was that a seed was planted and it's starting to grow."

What Decroux gave the European theatre was a thorough system of physical expression. Before him, no one had researched the physical art of the actor so meticulously and scientifically. He taught Jean-Louis Barrault, who played Debureau in the film, and also Marcel Marceau. Today, five years after his death, he is more than ever the cornerstone of the whole movement, even though many of those who do physical theatre may not have had direct contact with his methods.

This duality between tradition and innovation accounts for the vitality of physical theatre. Wasson, for example, appeared with his company Theatre de l'Arche Rouge in last year's Mime Festival, reconstructing some of Decroux's mime compositions from the 1930s, but he also pursues an experimental line of his own.

For those who are getting on with it, the situation is excellent. The problem is that in Britain, the tide of new mime talent has ebbed. Until he lost his funding, Bim Mason had his own group, Mummamada, but he is now a freelance director. His production of *Peasouper* for Rejection's Revenge comes to the mime festival trailing clouds of glory as a Fringe First winner at last year's Edinburgh Festival.

Mason, however, sees his success as an exception. "The funding situation has changed everything," he says. "There are no jobs. The scene has completely collapsed. Nationally there are less than a handful of groups making a reasonable living. So it's not going to attract the bright



Jerome Thomas Company (France) in *Hic Hoc*, one of 20 acts appearing at the London International Mime Festival

people it attracted in the early Eighties, when mime was the thing to do."

In order to stay afloat, younger groups are tending to opt for easy laughs at the expense of content. Mason blames audience tastes and the pressure of market forces. "A lot of the more sophisticated work simply does not survive touring into the provinces," he says. "People won't

go to see it. They just want a good story and a good laugh. They want to be entertained. What they don't want is exciting, dangerous ideas. They don't really want to go home thinking about it. This means that groups can no longer afford to take risks because the promoters won't buy the show."

Bim Mason's solution has been to run his own circus and

physical theatre school, Circomedia, in Bristol. "We're just trying to keep the flag flying," he says. "It's that desperate."

More than ever at the moment, mime is everything. Young mimes have their hearts in the right place but they need time to develop their skills if they are to make it eventually to the big stages. Decroux himself subsidised his research into mime by

appearing in films. His work was widely recognised only late in his life, but the theatre is richer because of it. As he put it: "Genius fades. People die. It's the art that is eternal."

London International Mime Festival, at various venues from Jan 12-28 (0171-637 5601)

Les Enfants du Paradis opens at the Barbican (0171-638 8800), on Jan 30

POP

Heat of the moment

IT BEGAN with a James Brown-style fanfare of horns and an unlikely promise: "Are you ready for one of the best shows of your damn life? Either that or your money back!" The man offering this deal was a burly singer and guitarist with a black quiff and implausible sideburns, rejoicing in the name of Speedo. And, while his spiel was pure fairground huckster, it was clear from the first riff that Rocket From The Crypt meant business.

Named after a street gang, they come from San Diego, and although they have put out half a dozen albums in America since they convened in 1989, this was the six-man group's first British show. Even so, a strong word-of-mouth reputation had en-

Rocket From The Crypt Garage, NI

sured that this sweaty North London club was jam-packed. Mixing the hell-for-leather aggression of the great British punk bands, particularly the early Clash, with the traditional swagger of American rockabilly, they played with ferocious attack and a ready smile. The sound was glued together by the astonishingly propulsive drumming of a man called Atom, while trumpeter J.C. 3000 and saxophonist Apollo 9 contributed a distinctive touch of pizzazz and Speedo's singing recalled that of Graham Parker at his most stretched.

For all the unhinged mania of the group's performance, their songs were short, tightly focused bursts of energy. My Arrow's Aim recalled the choppy riff of the Who's *I Can't Explain*, and the manic terrace chant of *Middle* neatly paved the way for the magnificently anthemic new single *Born in 69*.

Quibbles about the overall lack of dynamics in the set, or the way in which the horns and vocals tended to get lost amid the relentless mêlée of hurtling guitars, paled in the face of the exhilarating impact of the show as a whole.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Thrills and frills

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

three-course pre-theatre dinner at Centre Stage restaurant is £15 per person; and a two-course post-theatre dinner — with half a bottle of wine — and cabaret at Centre Stage is also £15. Besides this, special room rates are being offered by Radisson Edwardian Hotels. Stay in a double or twin room from as little as £34 per person. To book, call Centre Stage on 0800 335588.

Tickets for the show are £14 (stalls and dress circle), £10 (upper circle) and £5 (balcony). Send details of your name, address, membership number, number and price of tickets required and a cheque, payable to Centre Stage, to: Mousetrap Private Performance, Centre Stage, 140 Bath Road, Hayes, Middlesex, UB3 5AW.

FUN BEYOND WORDS

MEMBERS can get a taste of the vivid and varied world of the London International Mime Festival with "two tickets for the price of one" offers to the following shows: Cochrane Theatre (Jan 15-16, 18): Black Mime Theatre in *Dirty Reality II*, a humorous exploration of mixed relationships in today's society. Tickets normally £8.50, Tel 0171-242 7040. Purcell Rooms (Jan 18): Compagnie Jerome Thomas turn juggling into an art form. Tickets normally £9, Tel 0171-960 4242. Queen Elizabeth Hall (Jan 19): Rasposo presents *Le Fou de Bassano*, a re-creation of 18th-century circus theatre. Tickets normally £12.50, Tel 0171-960 4242.

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage. TO JOIN the Theatre Club, either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8LL, or telephone 01206 791737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

OTHER OFFERS

LONDON Theatre Royal, Haymarket Jan 11-13 ● MARTIN SHAW and Anna Carter in *Wilde's An Ideal Husband*. Tickets £15 (normally £23) for the evening performance on Jan 11 and 12, and the Jan 13 matinee. Tel 0171-930 8800

Sadler's Wells Jan 10-11, 13 ● SEE the flamenco double-bill *Corazon Flamenco* for £17.50 (normally £22.50) or £15 (normally £20) and receive a free programme at the evening shows on Jan 10 and 11 and the Jan 13 matinee. Tel 0171-713 6000

Lyric Theatre Jan 11-Feb 17 ● SAVE £2 on top-priced tickets (normally £15) for Friday performances of *Macbeth*. Tel 0181-741 2311

GLASGOW Crichton's Theatre Jan 30-31; Feb 6-7, 13-14 ● TICKETS £2 (normally £6) for Graham Greene's *Travelers With My Aunt*. Tel 0141-429 0032

HARROGATE Harrogate Theatre Jan 26 ● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £8 - £12) to *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Tel 01423 802116

MANCHESTER Library Theatre Jan 30 ● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £7 to £12) for Salman Rushdie's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*. Tel 0161-236 7110

HAYWARDS HEATH Platform Theatre Jan 27 ● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6.50) for the adult show, *Bluff*. Tel 01444 450111

GUILDFORD Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Jan 22 ● SEE *Conduct Unbecoming* for £10 (normally £12.50 to £17.50) in Guildford (Tel 01483 440000) and £8.50 (normally £14.50 and £16.50) in Plymouth (Tel 01752 267 222)

NEW MUSIC: More wise heads on youthful shoulders

Pianists came to the fore in the second pair of Park Lane Group concerts for new young talent. First up was the Korean-born Euny-Goh, long based in London. She was attended in the audience by many of her compatriots, bouquets at the ready, their solidarity of support perhaps reinforcing the steel fingers needed for much of her programme.

She paid tribute to her fellow Korean, Isang Yun, who died last November, with his *Five Piano Pieces*, her thoughtful approach making musical sense of his sometimes wayward figuration. It complemented Frank Martin's engaging *Fantasie* on flamenco rhythms, two tightly wrought Studies by Ligeti, and the vivid *Papaloni* (Butterflies) by the Mexican Javier Alvarez.

Both this pianist and her successor at the later concert, Rachel Beekles Willson, a specialist in Hungarian music from her studies in Budapest, are possessed of enviable mu-

Future sounds bright

PLG Young Artists Purcell Room

sicality to match splendid technique. Willson had fun with pieces by Gyorgy Kurtág, and premiered a multifaceted piece, *The Passing of Neptune* by Laszlo Tihanyi, in which the quasi-astrological associations of the planet seemed to bring corresponding irrationality into the music.

On more conventional ground with Elliott Carter's relatively early Piano Sonata, she brought a perceptive intellectual grasp of its weighty substance to add to a dazzling

keyboard brilliance in its faster sections.

This programme was shared with a different pianist, Karen Suiter, as partner to the flautist Slobhan Grealy, except in another Carter piece, *Scrivo in Vento*, in which the unaccompanied flute traces contrasting musical ideas stimulated by a Petrarch poem. A Duo for Flute and Piano by Copland revealed a lyrical sensitivity in the flute playing, which otherwise found itself tested to extremes in two other works.

One was the premiere of *Begin Afresh. Afresh. Afresh.* by David Warburton, the title a quotation from Larkin, and the music alternating wispy introspection with more cheerful ideas, but over-long for its content. Anthony Gilbert's *The Incredible Flute Music* of 1985 wore its 12-tone technique like a presently forgotten fashion, without stirring nostalgia for its return.

NOEL GOODWIN

Good fun on the Bayou

JAZZ

Dr John
Ronnie Scott's

as a metaphor for the steamy melange of musical styles which informed the pianist/singer's performance.

Relatively straightforward jazz was represented by two numbers taken from Dr John's latest big-band album. *Afterglow*: Don Redman and Andy Razaf's *Gee Baby Ain't I Good to You* and the Irving Berlin perennial *Blue Skies*. The former received a slinky, laid-back treatment; the latter

drew a typically sinewy solo from Tyler on tenor to complement the leader's insinuating, gravely vocal.

But it was the quintessential New Orleans fare which provided the evening's most robust highlights. Rollicking parade music, rolling barrelhouse piano, percussion interludes featuring cowbells and shakers, snatches of *Down by the Riverside* from Charlie Miller's strident trumpet, and a climactic band-introducing closer featuring an unusually varied round of solos, all mixed the extraordinarily fertile seam of that city's musical traditions.

CHRIS PARKER

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Secretaries used to be sent on minute-taking courses for meetings, reports **Jennai Cox**. Now they learn how to chair them

Smart way to the top

Employers receive about 20 applications for every secretarial vacancy, so they can afford to be choosy. But when it comes to considering a course to meet the requirements of a new job, so can secretaries. Courses have grown to match the more diverse role of the secretary, and many training centres plan new developments for the coming year.

Basic skills such as typing and shorthand still form the core of many courses, and speed is ever more important. Recruitment agencies will not consider putting on their books anyone with fewer than 55 words a minute.

"Sometimes," says Darren Gristwood, a consultant at Masterlock Recruitment, "the speed of typing and shorthand can be the deciding factor." To the surprise of Nigel Knight, the Principal of St James's Secretarial College, shorthand is more in demand than ever.

"It seems to make secretaries that bit more attractive to employers," he says. But Mr Knight says that his students need and want something more. Journalism, public relations, advertising and sales used to be optional in secretarial courses, but over the

past nine months they have become a key part of training programmes.

He says: "Being able to type is like being able to drive. Boys and girls are expected to be able to do it. Students have to broaden their horizons."

The shift in emphasis is proving popular. The college now has a waiting list for courses that also offer interpersonal skills such as "how to handle a boss who is a pain in the neck."

Mr Knight says: "When they are paying up to £14,000 a year, employers want a person who has confidence, a broad outlook, technical ability and, above all, reliability." Pat Dunn of CBT Recruitment, says: "The skill of good communications comes up time and again in job advertisements, and should be in any course for secretaries."

"Manners used to be vital: now getting on with people is one of the most important abilities."

Manners, deportment and presentation, once taught almost exclusively at "schools for young ladies", are now more widely considered. Sue Stratton, of CBT's educational division, says that image can still make the difference at interviews.

"If you have one smart young lady to see and one who isn't who do you think employers will go for?" she says. Teaching dress sense is not usually covered on training courses, but by building confidence on self-improvement courses, smartening-up can happen naturally.

The first such course for business, developed by the American Dale Carnegie in 1912, is now taught in 72 countries, and there are six regional headquarters in the UK. Liz Clarke, marketing director of Dale Carnegie UK, says that through the 12 weeks of the course she notices an improvement in the way that students dress.

Self-improvement is also a way of winning respect and showing dedication to a job. Steve Farrukh did a language course overseas — often taken by people considering a career move — so he could work in export sales. His company, Ciba Composites, agreed he could work his last three months in Seville, but said there would be no job when he returned. He was flown home for an interview with the same company and offered a job in export sales.

Mr Farrukh says: "I demonstrated I was committed to getting into sales."

Confidence is one attribute that is vital for secretaries. The Industrial Society is developing courses about presenting a positive image to help secretaries to be efficient and to "look the part".

The society's Marjorie Mair says: "We will be concentrating on effectiveness, and encouraging students to have a more holistic approach so that they are capable of carrying out the managerial tasks now expected of them."

Courses to teach secretaries a range of interpersonal skills have burgeoned. The Industrial Society runs courses on understanding legal responsibilities, time management, handling conflict, decision-taking, leadership, finance, managing change and problem-solving. Allison Alcock of the society says that training usually given to managers is now given to secretaries.

"In the past, secretaries used to be sent on minute-taking courses for meetings," she adds. "Now they will be taught how to manage and chair them." Having extra skills and being up to date with technology gives secretaries added flexibility if changing jobs, but



Steve Farrukh: he was told that his job had ended, but newly acquired language skills helped to win him a new post

it is important to have a career plan and to make sure learning can fit into day-to-day life. According to Andrew Sich of City and Guilds, national vocational qualifications, based on competence at work, are becoming more widely recognised and popular with people

wanting to improve their CV. The NVQ in administration, awarded by Pitman Qualifications, the London Chamber of Commerce, RSA and City and Guilds is one of the most popular courses, and is designed to be taken in the workplace. Demand for open

learning, which students can fit around their job by studying at a centre at any time between 9am and 5pm, and at weekends, is also growing. Pitman Training has 82 centres countrywide, providing facilities for all levels and ages. Jo Garrick of Pitman says:

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At least 5 years' senior secretarial experience will be essential, including a good working knowledge of WordPerfect and Word for Windows, Excel, Powerpoint and audio typing. Equally important will be your self-motivated approach, willingness to accept responsibility and ability to present a highly professional image in your dealings with international contacts.

To apply, please write with full CV and current salary details to: Alison Godwin, Human Resources Manager, Polaroid (UK) Limited, Wheathampstead House, Codecode Road, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8SE. Or telephone for an application form on 01852 632202.

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Pentland Group plc is looking for a down-to-earth and capable individual with excellent word processing skills (preferably Amiga) to assist the Chairman's PA in running a very busy office.

Pentland is a leading international consumer products business, specialising in footwear and clothing, with brands such as Spizoo swimwear, Elisse ski and leisurewear, Berghaus outdoor clothing and equipment and Lacoste and Kiwi leisure shoes.

The successful candidate will enjoy the rigour of a busy international role and ideally will have worked previously as part of a secretarial team at senior board director level. Loyalty, confidentiality and discretion are vital, as is the ability to communicate confidently with people from the junior to the highest levels. The successful candidate will be conscientious and non-assertive.

The Group's headquarters are based in Finchley and benefits include a subsidised staff restaurant, on-site gymnasium and car parking.

If you have a genuine team spirit, a sense of humour and are prepared to use your initiative, please apply in writing to: Mrs Anne Sturges, Human Resources Officer, The Pentland Group, Lakeside, Squire Lane, Finchley, London N3 2QL.

NO AGENCIES

CONRAD INTERNATIONAL

Overlooking the Thames and yachts in Chelsea Harbour the Conrad International is London's only all suite 5 star hotel. We currently have two outstanding opportunities within our busy sales and marketing office.

Secretary to the Director of Sales
You will play a key role in the sales and marketing team offering full secretarial support to the Director of Sales. Loyalty, the ability to organise and coordinate are the essential prerequisites for the ideal candidate.

Sales Secretary
This position demands a good team player who will be responsible for the sales team administration on a daily basis. You should possess good keyboard skills, an excellent telephone manner and be able to communicate effectively in a busy working environment.

We offer an excellent salary and benefits package as commensurate with one of the world's leading hotel companies.

Please phone personnel on 0171 823 3000 or send a full CV to the Conrad International, Chelsea Harbour SW10 0XG.

career moves
TV MULTI MEDIA PA/SEC
£18,500

Based in the heart of the exciting operation as PA/Sec to the Director of Strategy and New Media development for top TV Organisation you'll need at least 2 1/2 years office PA exp to get to grips with this demanding role. Organise everything from tapes to meetings to travel itineraries. Some kind of S/H useful. Good skills exp. min 5 yrs.

TELEVISION PR-PA/
PRESS ASST
£16,000

Utilise your brilliant communication skills to the full at this PR Co specialising in TV. Its a small set up so you'll need to supervise a jr trainee from scratch, assist with the PA function and get involved with press work. Fantastic career opportunities for a confident PA/Sec who has perhaps worked in PR who wants more. Good presentation exp.

10 Great Portland Street, London W1M 0PP • Tel: 0171 838 8811 • Fax: 0171 838 8812

McKEAGUE-GREEN
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
Advertising Rec/Secretary W8.

Ad agency requires well groomed rec with top skills to assist three directors. Must have Microsoft Word, Power Point and Excel. Ets 9.15 to 5.30. Age 25-45. Must have prev exp. Sal £16K.

Phone Jam on 0171 225 1842

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSA LISTENING EAR...
£16,000 + 5 WKS HOLS + GYM
+ LUNCH ALLOWANCE

Very important for this position at this unique company. Style Mayfair company. Many bright and motivated individuals pass through the door here and you will meet many of them. They will not only rely on your typing skills, but your ability to help troubleshoot and help out where you can with minor business problems. It's a small team, but friendly. You must be well presented, have good accurate typing (80wpm) and confidence too.

18-21 Jermy Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSA TRADITIONAL PA
£25-30,000 + BONUS
+ MED + STL

The Chief Executive of this prestigious SW1 company needs a hardworking and dedicated PA (35+) to support him administratively (90/55). You will need to be a professional, forward thinking individual who can anticipate situations, co-ordinate different priorities and cope with variety of demands. Ideally you will live locally, and have relevant experience.

18-21 Jermy Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

£17,000 - £20,000 + Bonus + Paid
Overtime + Benefits
PA/SECRETARY

Working for this international company of Management Consultants, you will need to be one of the best. For starters you must have a minimum of 5 years exp in a similar role. You must have an aptitude for preparing presentations on (Powerpoint/Word/Excel/Outlook/Access), cross training in the field and being able to take on the role of a project manager. You must be totally committed to working within a dynamic environment where only the best will succeed.

For more details fax or call today.
0171 734 3380/355 1975
0171 734 3380

TEL: 0171 734 3380 FAX: 0171 734 3380

EXECUTIVE LEGAL
SECRETARIES
Circa £20,000.

Our client, a highly successful corporate legal firm, has openings for four senior legal secretaries. They are seeking high calibre candidates with excellent secretarial, communication and administrative skills. You must have a minimum of 3 years relevant experience, be team orientated and able to support 2 senior people. Type 60wpm/MSWW ideal. Beautiful WC2 offices with excellent benefits.

Please call Tracey Lord on 0171 600 1709 for more information.

The Permanent Co
Division of Australian Temp CompanyCHIEF EXECUTIVE'S
PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Farnborough, Hants £20,000+
Have you had 3+ years' Board/Director-level PA experience? Proven your organisational, presentation and interpersonal skills? Demonstrated your diplomacy, confidentiality and sense of humour?

You could be just the PA one of our client's Chief Executive needs to liaise with clients, organise his diary and office systems, carry out admin and personal tasks, and provide a first-class PA service.

You will be computer literate, preferably with a knowledge of Windows-based packages; language ability would be an advantage.

Please send full cv, indicating current salary, which will be forwarded to our client. Address to our Security Manager if listing companies to which it should not be sent. Write to Ref: R24637/PA.

Advertising Limited, Number Two Caxton Street, London SW1H 0QE. Fax: 0171-233 1010.

GDRU Ltd
PA/Office Manager

An exciting and challenging opportunity exists for an experienced PA/Office Manager working for a leading international medical research company based near London Bridge.

You will be providing secretarial, administrative and organisational support primarily for our busy medical director and also for his team of four co-directors.

You will need to be well presented, highly motivated, energetic and flexible. Confidentiality and discretion are essential. Initiative, commitment and a willingness to work as an integral part of a dynamic team will ensure a high degree of satisfaction.

A good level of education is required together with experience in WordPerfect 6.1, Word for Windows (Excel and PowerPoint) an advantage.

A highly competitive salary with attractive benefits is offered.

Please send your CV with an accompanying letter to:
Dr E Allen
GDRU Ltd
5 St James's Court
London SE1 1JL

Closing date: Monday 22nd January 1996

PA to Managing Director
for Economic Consultancy

Dynamic PA required to support the Managing Director of this leading consultancy (80 staff). The ideal candidate will be a self starter who is flexible and can work under pressure to meet deadlines. Responsibilities include diary management, document preparation, client liaison and staff communications. Applicants should have outstanding administrative and communication skills, excellent computer skills and be highly motivated. Proficiency in word-processing (Microsoft Word 8.0) essential. Knowledge of presentation and spreadsheet packages an advantage. Competitive salary offered. Please send CV to Linda Styles, London Economics, 80 Chiltern Street, London W1M 1PR. No agencies.

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSSIMPLY PERFECT
£17,000

Wonderful people, fabulous offices, everyone helps each other... you get a lunch hour, everyone is the same age, and there are no office politics! This is an unexpressed but busy job (no shorthand, 55wpm typing) acting as team PA in a charming W1 company. This will be ideal if you are aged early to mid 20s with confident secretarial skills and a really personable nature.

18-21 Jermy Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSPA TO CHIEF EXEC
£19,000 + MED + PENS

This established yet small member-company organisation in the political eye (SW1) needs an extremely pro-active and smart PA to work alongside the Chief Executive. You will need an ability to remain one step ahead and always have information and papers prepared on whatever issues are in hand. The role is one-to-one, so initiative and efficiency is paramount. You will need solid PA exp (55wpm). Call asap for an immediate interview.

18-21 Jermy Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

SMART YOUNG
SECRETARIES

Are you keen to use your initiative? Applying to this ad would be a very good start because our client, a leading City Investment Bank can offer you career progression, an excellent salary and a really interesting, involved role. Working at Director level you will organise meetings, travel, diaries and social events. It is a fast-moving but very friendly environment and the office is superb. Ongoing training is offered and you will also benefit from the support of highly organised back-up staff and the most up to date technology. Previous city experience is NOT a requirement. Benefits include free lunch, bonus, M&A and paid overtime. Basic salary up to £18,000 plus package - £22,000.

Take the initiative and call us today!
Tel: 0171 577 5500 Fax: 0171 377 5588

TEL: 0171 577 5500 FAX: 0171 377 5588

CROSS SELECTION

Managing Director of highly prestigious international entertainment company based in West London seeks

EXPERIENCED TOPNOTCH P.A.

To assist with UK and international business. Top P.A. skills, strong computer literacy, shorthand, excellent organisational skills and preferably experience of handling worldwide travel arrangements/meetings. Confident in dealing with overseas clients and using own initiative during Directors absence overseas. Sense of humour and flexible, cheerful manner are essential. Salary and benefits negotiable.

Please send CV's and current photograph to:
Hilary Higgins, Human Resources
77 Fulham Palace Road
London W6 8JA.

PA/SECRETARY
£17,000 + benefits

The Secretariat for the Middlesex Local Medical Committees is part of a nationwide network of organisations which statutorily represent General Practitioners.

We are looking for an experienced PA/Secretary to support the Chief Executive of this small but complex organisation. Candidates should have sound PA/Secretarial skills, be self-motivated, organised and able to communicate effectively with people at all levels.

Please apply in writing with full CV by 22.1.96 to: Ms L. J. Secretary Manager, Middlesex Local Medical Committees, Tavistock House (N), Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HX.

INSTITUTE OF
BIOLOGY
PA TO GENERAL
SECRETARY

Rewarding senior PA position in professional body for biologists. Computer literate graduate required (Word for Windows), with recognised secretarial qualifications. Applicants will be excellent communicators with good interpersonal skills and four years' secretarial experience. Highly developed organisational and administrative skills and capacity to prioritise busy workload are essential.

£16,957 to £22,817, mark points to £24,575, plus benefits. No smoking office. Details from Sally Parker on 0171 581 8333 (unavailable after 17.00). Deadline: Friday 2 February. Interviews: 15 or 16 February.

For more details fax or call today.
0171 734 3380/355 1975
0171 734 3380

TEL: 0171 734 3380 FAX: 0171 734 3380

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MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSON THE UP...
£30,000 + EXC BENEFITS

Where you'll be if you join this very successful City company and assist a talented Director. This is a very high profile position needing sound skills of 60/65 and computer literacy. Honesty, loyalty and integrity are a must, and absolute commitment, for you will be working at the top end of a business success. You will need to be 25-40, well presented and spoken. Think you've got what it takes? Please call asap.

18-21 Jermy Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSCREATIVE PA
£20,000

Join this busy creative company (E01) as a senior level PA to MD, who can take on some responsibility for office management, get involved in new office technology (Apple, 50wpm) and be willing to use initiative, and responsibility to get on with their own projects. You'll need to be bright (graduate calibre), aged 25+.

18-21 Jermy Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
EXECUTIVE SEARCH
WIMBLEDON VILLAGE BASE.

An optimistic company with a glorious past and even brighter future seeks a dynamic Executive Secretary to provide secretarial and administrative support to our expanding team of consultants. Whilst we obviously need someone with a high level of secretarial skills, preferably experienced in Microsoft Word or Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint and Excel), we are also looking for someone who is self-motivated, has a flexible approach, excellent customer liaison and telephone skills, ideally familiar with database applications. A sense of humour and organisational ability are probably the most essential attributes in helping to support this busy team!

Salary package c.£18,000
Please write with your cv to:
Marlar Bernettes International
4 Glencalm
70 Ridgway
Wimbledon
London SW19 4RA
Fax No. 0181 946 5722

IMG

IMG, Mark McCormack's international sports and arts promotion group, is looking for:

SHORTHAND PA/SECRETARY

To play a vital support role for the manager of IMG's corporate hospitality sales and sponsorship division. All candidates must be educated to A-level standard and have excellent written and spoken English, with first class typewriting skills and shorthand at 80+ wpm. Ideal candidate for the demanding role will be well-presented, meticulously organised, calm, confident and able to work well under pressure.

Apply in writing with full CV and two of salary expectations to: C Ward, Personnel Manager, IMG, 5th Floor, Axis Centre, Hogarth Buildings Park, Buntingford Lane, Chesham W4 2TH. Tel: 0181 233 5501.

£19,000 plus
BANKING PA

Banking experience, good organisational skills and shorthand essential as PA to the Treasurer of this newly created position within a W1 bank. This is a fully involved role with excellent opportunities. The offices are superb, the pace fast and 70% admin.

Please call 0171 493 7001, SECRETARIES PLUS, rec. cons.

SECRETARIES
PLUS£20,000 plus
WEST LONDON

PA required to look after Director of this busy large corporation in West London. Lots of diaries, travel arrangements and corporate entertaining. If you are calm, organised and enjoy a flexible approach please call

SECRETARIES PLUS on 0171 493 7001 rec. cons.

SECRETARIES
PLUSSEC/PA to BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

As a leading international centre in the field of property and construction consultancy, we are seeking to recruit a Sec/PA for our Business Development Manager in London.

A professional level Sec/PA role is required to provide full secretarial support and assist with co-ordinating, administration of supporting research, managing meetings, liaisons and project information.

If you are enthusiastic, confident, able to work on own initiative and possess good written, communication and organisational skills and are conversant with Word for Windows/Excel, excellent experience desirable although not essential please send your CV to: Mr. Walker, Recruitment & Training Manager, EC House, 71/2 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JL.

For more details fax or call today.
0171 734 3380/355 1975
0171 734 3380

TEL: 0171 734 3380 FAX: 0171 734 3380

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MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSConversational French
WHAT A JOY...
£19,000 = £250 LVs - PENS + MED

Work in a company with clean beautiful offices, a central pleasant location (Knightsbridge) and with genuinely lovely people. If you are computer literate there is an opportunity to get really involved in a small administrative dept. You only need 15 mins exp and 50wpm for typing (support 2 Directors) you're French with 65+ exp used with clients abroad. Call asap for immediate interview.

18-21 Jermy Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

HAVE YOU GOT
THE JANUARY
BLUES?

Why not throw yourself into busy temporary work with Graduate Appointments?

We have a variety of backlogs LINK LANGUAGE appointments (from VDU operators to marketing assistants to secretaries).

We offer excellent rates of pay for long and short term bookings.

Please call JAN WILLIAMS to arrange an interview for immediate temporary work.

MAC OPERATORS URGENTLY REQUIRED.

0171 737 8333
0171 737 8313
The Langley House
London WC2E 8PL

JOSEPHINE SAMMONS LTD
PA/ADMINISTRATOR

Once in a lifetime opportunity to join this high-profile City based organization. Preferred age 20-25 years. Knowledge of Powerpoint/PW/Excel, education to 'A' level standard and one fluent foreign language are all essential requirements.

A confident, communicative approach along with the ability to prioritise and adapt. Hours are 9-6 (occasional irregular hours required).

Salary c. £10,000 + excellent benefits

Call 0171 623-4666
(Recruitment Consultants)

Pell & Bates

Britain's leading telephone fund raising agency providing fund raising, consultancy and research services to the voluntary sector nationwide.

P.A. to the
Managing Director

SALARY: £20,000-£22,500 (p.a.)

This demanding role within a young, fast growing agency requires a person with energy, experience and resourcefulness.

LA CREME DE LA CREME

1st Class 2nd Job Sec £14,500 + Bonus + Bens Superb opportunity! Blue chip consultancy Age 20-25 years Communicate at all levels Co-ordinate diaries, travel and administration Use of Word & Powerpoint Typing speed 45 wpm min.	PA to Head (Banking) £20,000 + Bens Must enjoy long hours High profile & varied workload You will be articulate Well presented Sense of humour! Word for Windows & Excel Prof Sh/H	PA in Corporate Finance £18,000 + Bens Bright, well presented Produce presentations Great team environment Organise administration, diaries & travel Sh/H 100 wpm Word for Windows Powerpoint & Excel	Top PA with DTP £25,000 + Bens HR Management Consultancy Lots of responsibility Produce presentations You will be organised, pro-active with strong typing speed Freelance for Windows WordPerfect 6.1
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Call Claire Walker-Macdonald Nolan or Amanda White
 Devonshire appointments

Personal Assistant to Director of Personnel

£19,500

The Royal Borough's Corporate Personnel department is committed to supplying a responsive, approachable and efficient service for an increasingly demanding range of customers.

As a key focal point for the Director of Personnel, you will be in a highly visible and extremely prestigious position; one which will involve far from run-of-the-mill PA activities and challenge you to undertake a stimulating variety of functions, while balancing an ever-changing workload.

As well as dealing with all the traditional responsibilities such as managing the department diary, and dealing with calls and correspondence, you will give close support for your outgoing Director. You will be expected to rise to any occasion, from organising seminars and meetings to supervising complex recruitment exercises and chasing the follow-up for key meetings.

To succeed in this role, you will need an unusual combination of skills and experience. It is essential that you are a resilient team player with a calm, professional and judicious approach. You must communicate positively and diplomatically at all levels and have a natural flair for picking up and extending contacts. You will be expected to act on your own initiative. Confidentiality features highly in all aspects of this role.

Other important qualities are an eye for detail, the ability to prioritise and organise your own schedule and the confidence to run with ideas. You will also need excellent secretarial and IT skills, with at least 50wpm, some shorthand or speedwriting and ideally experience of Word for Windows.

Benefits include private health care, bonus and season ticket loan and an attractive location. For further information and an application pack call 0171-361 2675 (24-hour answerphone) quoting Ref: BW79. The closing date for receipt of applications is 26 January 1996.



An equal opportunity employer.

SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR
 Required for the partners of a small, expanding management consultancy firm. Excellent opportunity to grow with the firm for a committed, enthusiastic individual with good organisational ability and an excellent telephone manner. Salary from £18,000 plus. Send written application with CV to: Macdonald Phillips & Co, 7 Ludgate Broadway, London EC4A 3DU.

TELEPHONIST/ TYPIST
 - City -
 For small friendly firm of Property Consultants. Varied duties also include responsibility for reception, data input and some office management. Knowledge of MS Word and Wordperfect 5.1 essential. Good presentation/ excellent telephone manner/great sense of humour. 25-45 age bracket. Salary circa £14,000. CV BY FAX ONLY 0171 220 7116 (Ref: CR).

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ITALIAN SPEAKER
 Top salary for self-starter reporting to chief exec of fast growing company. Opportunity to progress in business and computer fields. BRATCHAMP BURNAGE, Essex. 0171 229 6999

PA to Executive £19k + PRP
 A leading W/E management consultancy are seeking a Senior PA. Your corporate background will be complemented by excellent interpersonal skills. Please call Susan Hamilton Personnel on 0171 247 7035. Ref: A10463.

2 years senior secretarial experience at Board Level?

You don't just need ability and initiative ...we expect you to use it!

Our businesses are focused on large consumer markets where our skills have enabled us to build successful brands and concepts. Whitbread Inns - Brewers Fayre, Whitbread Beer - Boddingtons, Stella Artois, Thresher - Wine Rack, Bottoms Up, Whitbread Restaurants & Leisure - Beefeater, T.G.I. Friday's to name a few!

Our future depends on our continuing ability to anticipate the changing lifestyles and tastes of our customers and to provide products and services which always exceed their expectations. We recognise this can only be achieved in harmony with our people - their talent, their motivation and reward and constant development offers us the best way of achieving our objectives.

PA To Services Director c.18k + benefits. Luton

The Services Director reports directly to the Chief Executive of Whitbread Plc. He is responsible for managing a Division which encompasses Finance Services, Facilities Management, Procurement and Information Systems, as well as being a member of a range of cross functional/cross divisional committees.

You will support him in a very busy customer driven environment, providing the essential smooth running, confidential and professional support services he needs. This will include all aspects of a professional senior secretarial role, from diary management through to drafting reports for approval.

The successful candidate must have exceptional communication skills and be excited by a fast moving and highly pressurised environment. You should be able to demonstrate that you can work under your own initiative and are self motivated. A good educational standard and an excellent command of English is essential, with ideally, knowledge and experience of Ami Pro and Freelance. It is unlikely that you will have less than 2 years secretarial experience at Director level.

If you think that you have the ability and initiative we are looking for then you will see this as an ideal career move. Please forward your CV, with a letter of application detailing why you think you would be successful in this role, quoting Ref 1979/A, to Wynn Grant, Managing Consultant, Lansdowne, Rosedale House, Rosedale Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2SZ. Fax: 0181 332 6902. We welcome applicants from all sections of the community.

GROSVENOR

STEP INTO THE MEDIA SPOTLIGHT



As media secretary specialists, we can offer you exciting opportunities in the Arts, broadcast, publishing and entertainment.

If you are a good secretary, with a professional attitude and looking for a change ... come to the Grosvenor Bureau ... a consultancy that listens and endeavours to find the right job.

GROSVENOR BUREAU
 TEL: 0171 499 6666

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

EXECUTIVE PA WITH GERMAN £24,000 + BANK BENS

German President needs dynamic PA to organise his office. This senior position will need strong organisational skills to manage busy diary, co-ordinate travel, meetings & social functions. Liaise with Group Executives & attend board meetings. 100wpm 4/5, 40wpm typ. German lang, sense of humour. Bens inc health, pen, insur, STL, sport sub & paid overtime. Call Karen Hutchinson 0171 256 6668.

LOVE + TATE

SECRETARY
 £15,000 + Up to 20% bonus + Benefits
 An expanding Property Company based in the West End requires a young enthusiastic secretary to work along side the Chairman and his team. Must have fast accurate typing with knowledge of Wordperfect and Desktop Publishing. Apple Mac experience an advantage. Please contact Helena Vian Tel: 0171 404 2135/Fax: 0171 404 2335 or on the Internet: FraserTrust@compuserve.com No agencies please

SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT c£12,000

Interior design co in Victoria requires an enthusiastic, willing & flexible 2nd jobber. You should be well spoken with a good telephone manner, have a thorough knowledge of WordPerfect and Word for Windows and be able to work on your own initiative. Please apply to Lorna Mallett, Capital Interiors Ltd, 48 Rochester Row, London SW1P 1JU.

PROJECT/ADMIN PA TO £20K
 This newly created role within a highly successful Design co requires someone proactive to become actively involved in projects by coordinating schedules & research, arranging props & shoots, preparing copy sheets. Previous Apple/Mac PA skills from a similar environment, combined with enthusiasm, self-motivation & a sense of humour are essential. ED type typing. ROYDS RAPHAEL REC 0171 287 2050

NEW YEAR! NEW JOB! £13,000 + scope
 We need two secretaries for two positions in the City. You will need a good command of English, good typing 40+ wpm, some shorthand & enjoy looking after 3 very busy boys. Work hard - Play Hard! ROYCE GUIDES 0171 588 8887

DOUGLAS & GORDON
 SECRETARY FOR FULHAM OFFICE
 Secretary/Sales Negotiator to join our team and provide Fulham office. Applications must be accompanied and sent to: Douglas & Gordon, 111 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6AA. 0171 731 4391

BEST PA IN W.KENT
 Stop consuming in return for top rates. Res & Prop man/sec. Must be fit, N/S, have S/H Testable 70 wpm typing, shorthand & computer. It's a prop. man. background preferable. A level 5 & small co. exp. CV & handwritten let confirming above, please, to Box No 2713

ADMIN. ASSISTANT
 Small company seeks a bright person to support sales team in a wide range of office duties. Keyboard skills & previous office admin. experience essential. Salary £11,000. Covering letters & CV's to: Susan Morris, Magdalen Manor, Magdalen Manor, London SW12 2JZ

ESTATE AGENCY
 Are you bright, energetic, good at dealing with people and think you can sell property in West Kensington - then please contact James Anthony & Co 0171 381 4133

New Malden £20,000 neg
 We need a forward thinking PA, who is always one step ahead, to join a dynamic Chief Executive of a highly successful company. Ideally a graduate, languages useful, you will have worked at Director level which will have included organising conferences and extensive travel, doing presentations, including spreadsheets, preparing Board papers and acting as the central focus of communication with outside subsidiaries. You need to be able to handle pressure and work to deadlines. Skills 90/60. 0171 493 2888 HERITAGE RECRUITMENT

People Person £18,000
 We currently have a temp in this job who tells us that her day entails only 20% typing. The rest is taken up with liaising with clients and co-ordinating meetings. She spends most of her time on the telephone and is very much involved in the day to day business of the company. The Director is very personable and will keep you informed as to what is happening on various assignments. You will need to be able to compose correspondence, take quick notes and be willing to take on even the most tedious tasks. 0171 493 2888 HERITAGE RECRUITMENT

CJA RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS GROUP
 2 London Wall, Building 1, London EC2M 3PP
 Tel: 0171 555 3333 or 0171 555 3378 Fax: 0171 555 3301

RECRUITMENT OFFICER SECRETARIAL & SUPPORT CITY c£25,000
A LEADING LONDON LAW FIRM
 Our client requires a professional individual, aged 28-33, to join their small Personnel team to provide specific support in interviewing and selection of secretarial and support staff, induction processes, and supporting the Personnel team in all ad-hoc duties. Experience of working under pressure in a similar, fast-moving, partnership environment is essential. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills plus lateral thinking ability will be valuable. It is key that you are used to large volume, high quality recruitment. A generous benefits package includes profit related pay, pension scheme, LVs and season ticket loan. Applications in strict confidence, quoting reference R05283/TT, will be forwarded to our client unless you list companies to which they should not be sent in a covering letter marked for the attention of the Security Manager, CJA.

3 SECRETARIAL POSITIONS FOR LEADING PR CONSULTANCY BASED IN THE CITY
 Experienced secretary/administrator required to join Public Affairs Division. Duties include secretarial support to Managing Director, Deputy Managing Director and group of five consultants, plus administrative support for entire team. Some figure work involved. Good working knowledge of Microsoft Word for Windows, computer literate (Powerpoint), typing 70+, shorthand an advantage. An understanding of politics and/or government also an advantage. Salary £16,500 plus benefits. Please quote Ref 101.

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5:30 من المصلي

Breeders voice disapproval over haste surrounding recent election

Pressure mounts on McCloy again

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

THE highly damaging prospect of the Matthew McCloy affair continuing to haunt racing became a worrying reality yesterday as grassroots members of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (TBA) voiced their criticism of the recently appointed British Horseracing Board (BHB) director over his much-publicised arrest in New York.

Although the McCloy affair was not on the agenda at the TBA's annual meeting in London, two breeders were applauded when they spoke from the floor against the Newbury-based lawyer — and thereby signalled the strength

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: NIGEL'S LAD (3.00 Wolverhampton)
Next best: SWORDKING (2.30 Wolverhampton)

of feeling which exists throughout racing.

Mrs Pat Clark, a Cornwall-based breeder and retiring member of the TBA council, said she spoke for many grassroots members of the industry when she criticised the undue haste surrounding the recent election of McCloy to racing's governing body. It appeared the BHB's executives were trying to find some good for them "and not necessarily for the industry".

She added: "The BHB is perceived to be struggling to gain respectability and to demonstrate its integrity and yet it railroads this through at very short notice."

"The result is that the trouble chairman of the BHB



Lord Wakeham, left, and Gibson, the TBA's outgoing president, on parade yesterday. Photograph: Alan Weller

industry committee is now enmeshed as a director of the BHB and thereby a representative of our interests until well into the next century.

"We therefore have to represent someone in whom I and others have little confidence in his sense of judgment. This reflects sadly on the BHB's integrity."

St John Collier, an owner-

breeder from Orsett in Essex, spoke of the "contemptuous" way McCloy had insulted people's intelligence by trying to claim that his court admission of disorderly behaviour was similar to a parking ticket offence.

Collier said he had recently received a parking ticket but, unlike McCloy, he had not been handcuffed, involved in

an altercation with police or spent two nights in the cells. "It is contemptuous to say it was just a parking offence."

The TBA has criticised McCloy and attempted to delay his election but after his unchallenged appointment declared the issue was closed.

"There are a number of people here who do not feel this matter is closed and I think it

may come back to haunt you for some time," Collier added.

Privately, senior BHB figures admit the McCloy saga has been a disaster. In retrospect, they wish he had been leant upon to resign — although it is far from certain he would have agreed to quit willingly. Having said so on their hands the BHB is saddled with a lame duck director who

does not enjoy the confidence of many within racing. More worryingly, the acrimony his behaviour has caused, together with his uncontroverted elevation to a full BHB director, is in danger of undermining the board's activities.

Gerald Leigh, the TBA's respected representative on the board's industry committee was agreed, said: "It was fully discussed and a vote was taken. There is a big agenda for the future and I have to work on your behalf to achieve the very best I can on topics of major interest. I cannot do it if this acrimonious attitude continues. The matter was decided democratically and there is nothing more to be said."

Aside from the McCloy affair, David Gibson, the outgoing president of the TBA, made a cogently argued case for the breeders having direct representation on the BHB — rather than being represented by the industry committee's three directors.

If board representation was dependant on racing's aspiration to control the Tote and the Levy Board "breeders and trainers would be left in the wings for an indeterminate period, awaiting a small piece of political pie to fall from an uncertain political sky".

However, Lord Wakeham, chairman-elect of the BHB, said it was premature to contemplate changes to the board's carefully crafted constitution at least until it extends its responsibilities, when a review will inevitably be necessary.

He added: "The BHB board is already large enough if it is to continue to function efficiently and if other interests justifiably representation in the future existing seats will need to be given up."

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Leicester

Going: good to soft (some caution, heavy hurdles)

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Folly of allowing the flower of our youth to wither

Ever so slightly far-fetched, I know, but all the same, what if Mozart had been an English footballer? That is to say, a wunderkind, a prodigy, the master, at an impossibly young age, of all the nuances of his chosen medium?

I ask this rather lunatic question in the wake of the Chelsea-Newcastle United game at the weekend, when Michael Duberry, a young centre back with a handful of games behind him, put up a titanic performance to dominate Les Ferdinand, something no one else has managed all season. A prodigy, nothing less.

So will he be whisked straight into the England team now, while every aspect of his game rejects any possibility of personal fallibility, or

for that matter, mortality? I fancy not.

It would be the same with Mozart. "Well, Terry, how do you respond to the clamour in the press that you pick young Mozart?"

"Well, young Wolff's a great little player, got a lot of promise, but it's too early for him: the boy needs more time to develop, to work on a few more aspects of his game. If he can learn to be consistent, I don't doubt that he'll force his way into the reckoning."

Perhaps we should have Mozart as a cricketer, a scintillating batsman with the confidence, style and technique that has set the county circuit on fire. "Will you pick him, Ray?"

"Er no, the time's not yet ripe, we'll send the lad out on half-a-dozen A tours first. You

can't just walk into the England side, he's still got a lot to prove, you know."

Not quite the policy that India had when they picked Kamli and Tendulkar, both in their teens, against England a few years back. Both averaged more than 100 as England lost three successive Tests. Nor was it the policy that Pakistan adopted when they picked Waqar Younis, also in his teens.

Waqar was then a great burly youth who looked as if he had been shaving since the age of five and, almost at once, he became one of the great bowlers of modern times. What would have happened to him in this country? Coached to become a trundler, perhaps, or told that he was a cricketing nonentity whose only asset was pace.

MIDWEEK VIEW



SIMON BARNES

And then sent to mature on an A tour or three.

Now there is a sense in which all this prevaricating has its point. Young men on the sub-continent mature early. For most of them, this is not a place for the soft life.

Responsibilities come early. All the same, in this country sporting administrators do tend to have a kind of institutionalised mistrust of the young. Odd, really, since sport is really for the young.

A place in a national team is seen as a reward, something you earn. You do so by having a good career, by being, in the main, the right sort. No lad, you don't go waltzing into a national team — you have to earn the right to be there. You have to do your time, do your porridge, wait till you become one of the grown-ups and join the wily old pros club.

It is also a fact that most of the truly sublime talents in any game make their real talents known impossibly early. Pelé, Maradona, Cruyff. What would England have

done with such colossal, unmistakable talents?

I wonder, for example, if England would have picked Ryan Giggs? Actually, they probably would — and played him in a constrained role along the left touchline (I don't forget to tackle back and mark your man at corners, lad), and then shrugged at his inability to translate club form into international achievement. Well, that's what happens when you pick boys.

For some players, their extreme youth is their best time, when their courage is at its highest, when fear of failure is at its lowest. But the system tends to be don't pick him until he has had time for a little self-doubt to sink in.

Older players are safe selections, known quantities, unlikely to make the manager look an idiot. Managers relish that.

Is it fair to say that this is the priority of all sporting managers in this country — to avoid the dread fate of looking silly? The tradition has been well-established. England team managers must be seen as grown-up, safe, sensible types.

There is in all English national teams an inclination towards a conservative selection policy, of which the mistrust of youth is but the most obvious symptom. A safe squad, is it so very surprising that English teams tend to fail at the highest level?

That Mozart, all show, never amount to anything, wouldn't touch him with a bargepole myself...

Henman provides fillip with triumph over Philippoussis

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TIM HENMAN and Greg Rusedski gave British tennis a fillip in the build-up to the Australian Open with unexpected first-round victories in the Peters International tournament in Sydney yesterday.

Rusedski beat Richard Krajicek, the No 2 seed, 7-6, 7-6, and Henman had a comfortable 6-4, 6-2 victory over Mark Philippoussis. While Rusedski's triumph over the world No 11 was encouraging, Henman's success was more significant as Philippoussis is regarded as the best Australian prospect since Pat Cash, who won Wimbledon in 1987.

Henman, who beat Rusedski in the final of the national championships in Telford in November, out-thought the Australian teenager, whose game is built almost entirely on power.

"I don't know if I outsmarted him but his game can sometimes become a little one-dimensional," Henman said later. "I think that was really the first time I have played as well as I can play."

Henman, ranked 46 places below Philippoussis in the world, at No 95, believed his opponent had felt the weight of Australian expectation. Philippoussis rejected suggestions that his game was limit-

ed to power, saying he had simply had a bad day.

Henman felt his victory and Rusedski's win over Krajicek demonstrated that British tennis was emerging from the doldrums. "In the past we've relied only on Jeremy Bates, but with Greg and I playing better, hopefully we can put British tennis back on the map," Henman said. "In the past ten or 15 years we have suffered."

Born in Montreal, Rusedski became a British citizen last

Tennis results 44

year and is ranked 38th in the world. He now feels that he has been accepted by other British players. "At the beginning there were a few players who said something but we all get along very well now," Rusedski said.

Henman is relishing Rusedski's decision to play for Britain rather than Canada. "A few of the players had some problems, but I was never dissatisfied with the situation... he has a British mother, he's lived in England, I've said it before — I have no problem with it."

Although a host of seeded

players fell along with Krajicek, there were no problems for Goran Ivanisevic, the No 1 seed. The Croatian was barely extended in a 6-3, 6-3 triumph over David Prinosil, of Germany, who arrived in Sydney only yesterday morning after reaching the semi-finals of the Qatar Open at the weekend.

Krajicek will now continue his preparations for the Australian Open, which begins in Melbourne next week, by playing in the Kooyong Classic, which starts today. Krajicek replaces Pete Sampras, the world No 1, who was forced to withdraw from the event because of a virus.

Also in the Kooyong field are Andre Agassi, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Jim Courier, Wayne Ferreira, Patrick Rafter, Michael Chang and Stefan Edberg.

Martina Hingis, 15, of Switzerland, was twice warned by the umpire after throwing her racket during her 6-4, 2-6, 7-5 defeat by Naoko Sawamatsu, of Japan, in the first round of the women's event of the Peters International. Hingis, who missed four match points, shrugged off her racket-throwing histrionics, saying: "It's not broken, so there's no problem. I'm not the only one who does this."



Henman on the way to victory over Philippoussis in the first round of the Peters International in Sydney yesterday

Knock on Wood

Cricket: Matthew Wood, of Yorkshire, struck his second half-century of the match as England Under-19 moved into a commanding position on the second day of their three-day match against Mashonaland Under-21 in Harare yesterday. Mashonaland resumed on 22 for three and were dismissed for 143 to fall 135 runs behind on first innings.

SCORES: England Under-19 278 (M Wood 63 and 144, Wood 75, O Sales 43), Mashonaland Under-21 143 (G Renne 78, C Campbell 55, M Hoggard 3-47).

Swiss switch

Skiing: Three men's World Cup races later this month have been moved from Wengen to Veysonnaz, another resort in Switzerland, because of poor snow, the International Ski Federation said yesterday. Veysonnaz will stage downhill on January 19 and 20, and a slalom the next day.

Moving feast

Badminton: The English national championships at the Norwich Sport Village have been switched to April 2 to 4 from March 28 to 31 to avoid a clash with the Polish championships, which have been upgraded to a world grand-prix tournament.

Real upset

Real tennis: Nick Wood, of Hampton Court, and Adam Phillips, of Hatfield, the No 3 seeds, upset Lachie Deuchar, the Harbour Club professional, and Jonathan Howell of the Oratory School, the No 2 seeds, 6-5, 6-4, 3-6, 6-5 to reach the final of the BNB Resources British professional doubles championship at Queen's Club.

Hyde Park provides Olympic focus

By DAVID MILLER

THE Olympic Games of 2008 staged in Hyde Park, London? Or, more fanciful still, in Dublin? Both proposals are under discussion, the former the more serious and realistic. Both cities wait to see the highly relevant list of bids for 2004, which closes today.

A Dublin bid is the brainchild of Tony O'Reilly, the industrial multimillionaire and former rugby international. A London bid, utilising Hyde Park, for 2008 and, if unsuccessful, 2012, is the British Olympic Association's (BOA) possible alternative plan should the new national stadium be built in Manchester rather than Wembley.

If Hyde Park can hold a million people for a Pavarotti concert, it can accommodate a temporary athletic stadium with a 50,000 capacity for ten days, given its ten adjacent Underground exits. The appeal to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) of such an offer — with opening and closing ceremonies at Twickenham, would be com-

elling alongside the city's other attractions.

The BOA decided against a bid for 2004 immediately after Manchester's second failure, when Sydney was elected for 2000. Craig Reddie, chairman of the BOA, has had preliminary discussions with Richard Sumray, co-ordinator of a previous London bid defeated by Manchester, and will shortly be debating government attitude with both main political parties.



O'Reilly: multimillionaire behind potential Dublin bid

What Reddie has to prepare is an overall plan, embracing village, competitor-transport and main stadium, that would meet the demands of the IOC's evaluation commission.

"What could we show them at this moment?" Reddie asks. "It will take a year to put a comprehensive plan in place, and clearly the national stadium, to be decided this spring, is crucial."

So much depends on the entry list for 2004. Peking is up to now, an entry, but is believed to have done a deal with Ted Turner, owner of CNN and the motivating force behind the Goodwill Games, to host the event in 2002. Peking would also be a serious Olympic candidate for 2008. Cape Town, if it can get past the evaluation commission's rigid screening, would be an irresistible option behind a personal appeal to the IOC from President Mandela.

In the absence of these two candidates, Rome may well win in 2004, making 2012 the next likely target for a European city. London is treading a complex path yet, should it

maximise its impact, it could defeat all rivals.

Dublin's interest is provocative, never mind far-fetched. It has been mounted under the umbrella of the Dublin International Sports Council (DISC), a body intended to promote sport in the interests of tourism. O'Reilly is believed to have seen an Olympic bid as a pathway to personal IOC membership, but Patrick Hickey, president of the Irish Olympic Committee, was preferred in succession to Kevin O'Flanagan.

"We've never been consulted by DISC and find it strange we're not involved," Hickey says. "We'd be up against cities with 70 per cent of the infrastructure, when we haven't got 0.7 per cent."

Last night, the northern French city of Lille became the eleventh candidate to bid for the right to host the 2004 Olympics, joining Athens, Rome, Stockholm, Istanbul, St Petersburg, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, San Juan, Seville and Cape Town. The winning city will be chosen by the IOC in September 1997.

Confident Benn casts gaze beyond Malinga

NIGEL BENN, who makes the tenth defence of his World Boxing Council (WBC) super-middleweight title against the South African, Thulane Malinga, at Newcastle Arena on March 2, is determined to go on and seize the World Boxing Organisation title held by Steve Collins, of Ireland.

Malinga, 35, the mandatory challenger, has already lost to Benn in a non-title bout in Birmingham in 1992.

"I'm not ready to retire," Benn, who aims to meet Collins later this year, said. "There are some good fights left in the old man yet. I still love boxing and I still have things to prove."

He will train with Frank Bruno, the WBC heavyweight champion, in Tenerife, and has predicted that Bruno will beat Mike Tyson in their bout

on March 16. "I was Tyson's biggest fan," Benn said. "But how can you be away from boxing for four years and be the same man? I believe in Frank. He hurt Tyson in their first fight and he can crack him open now. I'm having a bet on him."

Henry Wharton, the European super-middleweight champion, will rely on tried and tested tactics when he defends his title against Vincenzo Nardiello, of Italy, in Halifax on Saturday.

Wharton was to have met the durable No 1 contender, Frederic Seillier, of France, who was forced to pull out through injury. Wharton will rely on the strategy he used to defeat the Irish southpaw, Sam Storey, last November when he meets Nardiello, who is also a southpaw.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

South on this hand was Martin Barber, one of the TGR regulars. He has paid £1,500 to the charity for the dubious privilege of playing with me in the Barnardos Bridge Tournament. When I asked him if he had money to burn, he said it was cheaper than playing an evening of rubber bridge against Zia Mahmood.

Dealer East	Love all	Rubber bridge
♠ J 10 8	♥ A 7 3	
♥ K 8	♥ A J 9 3	
♦ Q 7 5 2	♦ 10 8	
♣ A Q 8 7	♣ K J 5 4	
♠ 8	♠ N	
♥ Q 7 5 2	♥ W	
♦ 10 5 4 3	♦ S	
♣ 10 3	♣ 10 4	
	♣ A K	
	♣ 9 6 2	

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: Ten of Clubs

East opened 1NT (12-14) and North-South then bid to Four Spades. On the lead of the ten of clubs, Barber played the queen from dummy. This was an important move, as it preserved a major tenace in clubs against East's jack. (NB: If you are holding the equivalent of A Q and the opponent has K J, you have the "major" tenace and your opponent the "minor" tenace.)

East won and returned a diamond. Barber cashed a second diamond and played trumps. East took the second trump and returned a third trump, won in dummy by the jack.

Barber cashed the queen of diamonds on which he unblocked the nine of clubs from hand. Then he ruffed a diamond and played off his last two trumps, leaving in dum-

my the king of hearts and the ace and eight of clubs. East still had to discard from the ace and jack of hearts and the jack and five of clubs. When he threw a heart, Barber exited with a heart and made the last two club tricks.

There is an evening of bridge on Tuesday, January 30, at the Draper's Hall, in aid of Barnardos. There are wonderful prizes, ranging from holidays in Spain to cashmere sweaters. Zia Mahmood and Bob Hamman will be present to give advice and exchange wisecracks. Tickets are £75 each for dinner and bridge. Black tie. Enquiries to Helen Hiron (Barnardos), telephone 0181-550 8822.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Gambit accepted

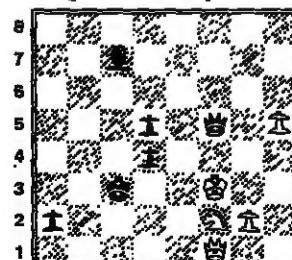
Matthew Sadler, the British champion, has become one of the world's leading experts in acceptance of the Queen's Gambit. In the Hastings Premier tournament, Sadler made excellent use of his expertise to defeat the former Russian grandmaster, Alexander Khalifman, who now represents Germany. Khalifman sacrificed a pawn for a vigorous attack but failed to break through against Sadler's rock-like defence. The British champion then transposed into a favourable endgame, which he decided by a king march to undermine White's queenside.

White: Alexander Khalifman
Black: Matthew Sadler
Hastings Premier, January 1996

Queen's Gambit accepted

1 d4	d5
2 c4	dxc4
3 Nf3	a6
4 e3	Nf6
5 Bxc4	e5
6 0-0	c5
7 Qe2	b5
8 Bb3	Bb7
9 a4	b4
10 Rd1	Be7
11 Nbd2	0-0
12 Nc4	Nbd7
13 Nf5	0-0
14 e4	exd4
15 Bb4	Qc5
16 Rxc4	Qa7
17 Nd5	Be5
18 Nb7	Qxb7
19 Nd3	Rf8
20 Rcd4	Bb6

Diagram of final position



Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

MANAIA
a. Psychological disorder
b. Thai sea food
c. Maori carving

MUSETTE
a. A canvas haversack
b. Goddess of minor poets
c. French ballroom dance

NENE
a. A filtration unit
b. A slender Japanese bamboo
c. The Hawaiian goose

HEROON
a. Highland aquatic bird
b. A hero's monument
c. Heretic's torture instrument

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to move. This position is from the game Gallagher — Lane, Hastings Masters 1990. Joe Gallagher scored a grandmaster result in this tournament which helped him on his way to eventually claiming the title. How did he force immediate victory here?

Solution on page 46

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مكتبة الأمل

Three great expectations

cap in a rejigged back row which will see Wainwright on the blind side and Peters retained at No 8.

□ What is expected to be the final inter-district championship draws to a close this evening when the Exiles, the champions and favourites to retain the title, meet the Souths at Richmond and Edinburgh play North and Midlands at Megeath. The Exiles will finalise their side this morning after wholesale withdrawals, including those of Townsend and Dods, and seven players from London Scottish, who play London Irish in an important league match on Saturday. Redpath, Chalmers and Shiel have pulled out of the South side.

Thomas the Bristol stand-off will be entrusted with the goal-kicking for Wales.

ions — wales that game is with England at Twickenham on February 1 — depends on the 1988 list of players up, but at best Bowring will know more about the character of his emerging players.

□ Bath, England's leading club, are investing in youth, too, with the announcement of a £500,000 scheme to enrol promising players at Bath University. The rugby scholarships funded jointly by the club and Western Freights, the Bristol-based distribution company, will allow 30 players to pursue four-year study courses at the university.

The first of them goes to Richard Butland, already in the second year of an engineering course and who will be a first-class cricketer in the Pilkington Cup final last May. It is hoped that eight will have enrolled for the next academic year, depending on their achieving the necessary academic qualifications.

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MATTHEW SYED, the England No 1 table tennis player, will reach the most important goal of his career if he earns a ticket to Atlanta — as he believes he should — during the Olympic qualifying tournament that starts today at the Nynex Arena, Manchester. If he does, the former Oxford University student will achieve his third outstanding feat within seven months.

Syed gained a first-class degree in politics and economics despite having played for his country for most of last season. He further confounded any doubters by retaining

his England No 1 ranking by Christmas. Wins over three players in the world's top 25 — Peter Karlsson, Ma Wenge and Calin Cretanga — have also carried him 20 places higher to a world ranking in the forties.

"I'm in the best form of my career. I'm delighted with it," Syed said. "Having my mind clear to concentrate on table tennis has been such a relief. I don't have to think about deadlines for essays all the time and I am showing the benefit."

Chen Xinhua, the former England No 1, has been helping him and England's

other No.1, Andrea Holt, prepare for the five-day tournament. Chen and the English national champion, Carl Plean, are Great Britain's two nominations for automatic Olympic places, and Syed is unlucky not to have one of them, especially as Plean is refusing to play for England.

Holt is one of three England women trying to qualify, the others being Lisa Lomas, the former European silver medal-winner and Alison Gordon, the former English national champion. Holt and Lomas both have reasonable chances of making it, even though the field is strong.

Answers from page 45

MANAIA

(c) A Maori carving with a bird's head and human body. Freeman and Gifford, *Anthropology in South Seas*, 1959: "The important symbol in Maori carving termed the *Manaia* I believe is basically avian in origin."

MUSETTE

(a) A type of military canvas haversack. J. Thomas, *No Banners*: "Alfred had the Sten gun in a canvas musette tied with string and slung over his shoulder."

NENE

(c) The Hawaiian goose. Formerly called the Sandwich Island Goose. H. W. Henshaw, *Birds of Hawaiian Islands*, 1902: "Upon the island of Hawaii the haunts of the nene are the uplands."

HEROON

(b) A sepulchral monument dedicated to a hero. From the Greek *heros*, of or pertaining to a hero. T. R. Glover, *Antiquary XXIV*: "Dyggve himself has erected such a heroon at Katvorn."

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	Depth (m)	Conditions Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (Spm) °C	Last snow
AUSTRIA					
Kitzbühel	20	75 good	heavy art	fine	3 8/1
Lach	50	90 good	strong fair	cloud	5 8/1
Mayrhofen	5	40 good	varied closed	sun	5 8/1
Schladming	35	60 good	(Good piste shining after new snow)	cloud	2 8/1
			(Pistes hard-packed but enjoyable)		
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	90	220 fair	heavy fair	cloud	5 7/1
			(Warm air causing heavy conditions; 70 out of 82 lifts open)		
Les Arcs	50	200 good	varied fair	cloud	4 7/1
			(Snow cover overhead but some warm patches)		
Avoriaz	100	125 good	varied fair	cloud	-1 7/1
			(Mild and cloudy but skiing still good)		
Chamonix	25	215 good	varied fair	cloud	1 6/1
			(Great skiing on and off piste. No queues)		
Flaine	10	100 good	varied fair	cloud	-1 7/1
			(Snow conditions all right but some handpuck development)		
La Plagne	80	180 fair	varied warm	cloud	1 7/1
La Tignes	15	125 good	varied fair	cloud	0 7/1
			(Snow good above 1,500m but thawing low down)		
Tignes	80	130 good	varied good	cloud	4 7/1
			(Pistes good but strong winds at altitude)		
ITALY					
Cervinia	45	250 good	varied good	fair	-1 7/1
			(Pistes rammer in good condition despite high winds)		
SWITZERLAND					
Arnsa	40	60 good	varied fair	cloud	-1 9/1
			(High winds and cloud giving tricky skiing)		
Grindelwald	8	60 fair	varied warm	cloud	2 7/1
			(High runs good but lower areas showing signs of wear)		

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1 FM 97.5-98.3, RADIO 2 FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3 FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4 FM 92.4-94.6, LW 198; MW 720; RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 803, 900, WORLD SERVICE MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am), CLASSIC FM, MW 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, MW 105.8; MW 1187, 1215, TALK RADIO UK, MW 1053, 1089, Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Doot, Gillian Mazon.

Dying of neglect should not be a fact of life

We owe a lot to Florence Nightingale, apparently. Far from just lifting a lamp aloft when war artists were in the vicinity, Miss Nightingale was also a pioneer of mortality statistics, which shed light of a more metaphorical kind. In last night's *Local Heroes* (BBC2), the cycling local hero Adam Hart-Davis showed examples of her "co-comb" charts — coloured paper, spiralling outwards from a central point — which showed the staggering numbers of Crimean soldiers killed by bad food and disease, as opposed to cannon-fire and cavalry charges. Such figures were unanswerable, she claimed. She said flatly: you might as well take these men out on Salisbury Plain and shoot them.

Hart-Davis went on to tell us about an invention of the propeller, too (or "propeller-ship" as he pompously pronounces it), but it was Nightingale's figures that stuck in the

mind. For later came Channel 4's *Return to the Dying Rooms*, with its plain facts and numbers about the death rate in Chinese orphanages. Nowadays we don't need a primitive pie-chart to show us that 90 per cent mortality simply cannot be gainsaid. A revised version of last summer's controversial film, *Return to the Dying Rooms* showed us the now-familiar images of toddlers tied to pokey-benches and skinned female corpses with less splashed. But it also claimed evidence of a deliberate policy in state orphanages to select children for a slow death of neglect. "Summary resolution" is the name for this policy. And as anybody post-Nightingale could point out, it would be kinder (and more honest) to take these girl babies out on Salisbury Plain. *Return to the Dying Rooms* was not a sensational or emotionally manipulative film. There was no Live Aid soundtrack of the Cars

singing "Who's Gonna Take You Home?". It was cool and factual. Its producers had copies of official reports, circulated at high party level, confirming the extent of abuse, and confirming also that it was known. They had medical records charting the stages of malnutrition by which a starved child had died. Clearly the one-child policy is the culprit and making those unwanted girl babies disappear is a rather shortsighted solution. China already has 70 million surplus young men with nobody to marry. And let's face it, it is unlikely they will all become monks.

Elsewhere on last night's television the main impulse was to entertain — or die in the attempt. BBC2 now has its late-night double-bill of cult comedy imports. *The Larry Sanders Show* and *Seinfeld*, starting at 11.15pm. This is a bit rich, actually — like

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

putting peanut butter and jam in the same sandwich — but it is a brave stab at creating a new landmark in the schedule, and making the in-crowd turn up for work on Wednesdays with their eyelids stapled open.

Meanwhile, early ITV episodes of *Men Behaving Badly* are getting their rehabilitation treatment on BBC1. *The X Files* are back to scare us witless, and in the peak slots we have Channel 4's *Ride On* (fun with transport), BBC1's sitcom *Next of Kin* (fun with grannies) and ITV's *Outside Edge* (fun with cricket pavilions). I watched the last, which is quite a feat. My own eyelids now flap loose like tarpaulins in a storm.

Outside Edge progressed momentarily last night, however, when the downtrodden cricket-writer Mimi (Brenda Blethyn) acquired a young admirer. She is accustomed, of course, to the cursory attentions of her husband Roger (Robert Daws), who declares "Love you all right OK fair enough", without punctuation. To have a young chap make cow-eyes at her will make a pleasant change. Meanwhile, in fur coat, lipstick and big specs, Josie Lawrence continues to molest her own husband Timothy Spall in full public view, and remarkably it is still funny when Spall realises by calling her a dozy great lump.

These characters were so brilliantly written in the first place (in Richard Harris's stage play) that *Outside Edge* seems incapable of a false note, even when the story is unutterably stretched. Do amateur dramatic societies still queue up to do the play, as they used to? Somehow I doubt it. They must be far too intimidated.

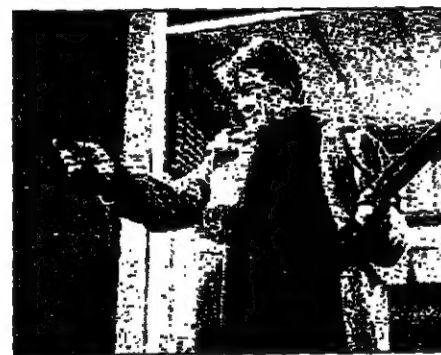
Classic yucky stuff from *The X Files* (BBC1) last night, justified by its 10pm slot. The unflappable Mulder and Scully investigated a murder in a small town founded by circus freaks, where people hammered nails in their own noses as a form of greeting, and even Sheriff Hamilton was formerly Jim-Jim the Dog Faced Boy. "Imagine going through your whole life looking like this," mused the fine-boned Scully (Gillian Anderson), perusing a picture of the latest victim, "Alligator Man". Scully and

Mulder, of course, have no imperfections whatever. Even their raincoats don't have spots.

The murderer turned out to be a figure from Freudian nightmares, a bloody, screaming, baby-faced incubus which scuttled at speed through a half of mirrors. Nobody had suspected its identity, since it normally resided as a living lump on the side of a big named Lenny. But it had learnt to detach itself from Lenny and go hunting alone. When they finally deduced this, an astounding explanation, Mulder and Scully took it in their stride, as always, and set out with big handguns and firm chins. At the end, Scully received a lecture on genetic engineering from a man named Dr Blockhead. "Imagine going through your whole life looking like him!" exclaimed the good doctor, indicating... Mulder. And not surprisingly, Scully looked at her handsome partner in quite a new light.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (12652)
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (2903852)
9.10am Kibbo (2139213)
10.00am News (Cesfax), regional news and weather (8392729) 10.05am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (8376300)
10.30am Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (72279)
12.00pm News (Cesfax) and weather (8412381) 12.05pm People and the Planet (s) (9725877) 12.50pm Regional News (Cesfax) and weather (46010)
1.00pm One O'Clock News (Cesfax) and weather (46010)
1.30pm News (Cesfax) (s) (8424758) 1.50pm Hawkeye starring Les Horley and Lynda Carter (s) (1582942) 2.35pm Holiday (s) (Cesfax) (s) (4741045) 3.05pm Timeskeepers (s) (5884497)
3.30pm Moomin (1185768) 3.50pm Bits (11264132) 4.10pm Rugs (s) (s) (8661395) 4.35pm Agent Z and the Penguin from Mars. Children's comedy-drama series (Cesfax) (s) (8148497)
5.00pm Newsround (Cesfax) (4685519) 5.10pm Blue Peter with (Cesfax) (s) (7757010)
5.35pm Newsround. Hannah is shocked when she discovers her Aunt Lucy in a centrefold magazine (s) (Cesfax) (s) (823478)
6.00pm Six O'Clock News (Cesfax) and weather (519)
6.30pm Regional News Magazine (871)
7.00pm This Is Your Life introduced by Michael Aspel (Cesfax) (s) (3229)
7.30pm May to December: Take Good Care of My Baby. Romantic comedy series starring Anton Rodgers and Lesley Dunlop (s) (Cesfax) (s) (855)
8.00pm Paul Daniels' Secrets. Paul Daniels holds court as another selection of international performers keep the audience enthralled, or at least awake (Cesfax) (s) (818223)
8.50pm Points of View with Anne Robinson. (Cesfax) (s) (46403)
9.00pm Nine O'Clock News (Cesfax), regional news and weather (5884)
9.30pm Hasty Wainwright Investigates: Eye Witness. Light-hearted drama series about a C.A.P. PI. The Wainwright Detective Agency gets another intriguing case when a bird watcher goes missing, and a young woman is found dead at the bottom of a cliff. With Patricia Routledge, Derek Benfield, Dominic Monaghan, John Graham Davies, David Bower and Ray Ashcroft (s) (702213)
10.20pm Small Sacrifices. First of a two-part drama, based on a true story. A frantic mother drives into an Oregon hospital seeking urgent medical attention for her children. She claims they have been shot by a stranger, but the real story is far more complicated and sinister. Starring Fanny Fawcett, John Shea, Gordon Clapp and Ryan O'Neal (s) (191229)
11.55pm FILM: The Yakuza (1975) starring Robert Mitchum and Takakura Ken. A bloodthirsty drama set in the violent world of the Yakuza, the Japanese mafia. Directed by Sydney Pollack (584720)
1.45am Weather (2357362)



Robert Mitchum goes east (11.55pm)

BBC2

- 6.00am Business and Work: Nice Work (10294)
7.00am Breakfast News (Cesfax and signing) (6546687)
7.15pm Lassie (5897565) 7.40pm Stone Protectors (s) (7644720) 8.05pm Run the Risk (s) (5904836) 8.35pm The Record (s) (8885871) 9.00pm Blitz on Christmas (s) (1126) 9.30pm Sex's Year (s) (10145) 10.00pm Playboys (s) (8375671)
10.25pm FILM: Miraculous for Sale (1939, b/w) starring Robert Young. Murder mystery directed by Tod Browning (5875519)
11.40pm The Fugitive (b/w) (1750126)
12.30pm Working Lunch (58361)
1.00pm Melvin and Maureen's Music-a-Grains (s) (s) (28261294) 1.15pm Untamed Fashions (s) (1656923) 2.10pm The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5811720)
3.00pm News (Cesfax) regional news and weather; Westminster with Nick Ross (Cesfax) (7541584) 3.55pm News (Cesfax) (5507107)
4.00pm Today's Day (s) (584) 4.30pm Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (768)
5.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (Cesfax) (s) (7196584)
5.40pm A Week to Remember (b/w). Patrice newsworld footage from 1956 (386887)
5.50pm A Different Country Practice. An eight-part series on the work of the Airedale NHS Trust (373313)
6.00pm Star Trek: The Next Generation (Cesfax) (s) (84155)
6.45pm The O Zone (s) (244300)
7.00pm Natural World: The Echo of the Elephants. Wildlife film that charts 18 months in the life of the matriarch of an elephant herd (s) (Cesfax) (s) (6213)
8.00pm University Challenge. St. Andrews University v Imperial College, London (8946)
8.30pm Delta Smith's Winter Collection. Broccoli soufflé with three cheeses, red onion tart and a warm roasted chestnut with pears in balsamic vinaigrette (8126)
9.00pm Victoria Wood as Seen on TV (s) (Cesfax) (4126)
9.30pm Under the Sun. (Cesfax) (s) (70885)
10.20pm What the Papers Say. Presented by Paul Foot (s) (33658)
10.30pm Newsnight. (Cesfax) (357107)



The economist J.K. Galbraith (11.15pm)

- 11.15pm The Big Idea (s) (429107)
11.45pm Weather (219558)
11.50pm Midnight Hour. Political chat show (s) (492039)
12.30am-6.00am The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Under the Sun: Singapore Singles BBC2, 9.30pm

The Singapore Government is worried about its bright young citizens. Instead of getting married and producing the bright young citizens of the future, they are too busy pursuing careers and making money. Advertising campaigns proclaim that "Life is lonely without a family — don't leave it too late". There are generous tax advantages to educated women who have children. The Government has even set up a dating agency aimed specifically at university graduates. In Jenny De Yong's film three successful young professionals, who have so far enjoyed the single life, take the agency's weekend cruise. They have 24 hours to find a partner, a fact which impacts pace and urgency to a hitherto dawdling narrative.

Short and Curries: The Pan Loaf Channel 4, 9.45pm

The slot which gives new film-makers 11 minutes to make their mark returns with a moody piece from writer and director Sean Hinds. Set in Belfast, it reflects a time before the ceasefire when security forces roamed the streets looking for troublemakers and it was better to pretend not to be a Catholic or a Protestant than to be a target. Hinds bases his quirky narrative around the quest of two students, Catholic male and Protestant female, for a loaf of bread in the middle of the night. Their adventures are unexpected and the streets are suitably dark and menacing. Hinds is clearly a name to watch-but it is a pity he gives his characters language that belongs more to the building site than the university campus.

Traveling Channel 4, 8.30pm

When a European magazine compiled its list of the 100 sexiest women of all time, Marianna Faithfull came in at number 31. She was thrilled to bits, especially as she was placed higher than the model Naomi Campbell. Faithfull reveals her pleasure during a travel piece about Jamaica, and although it has no relevance to the subject, it is what most viewers will probably remember longest. As for Jamaica, the island is rather more than Faithfull's words. Pete McCarthy, on the other hand, is a wordsmith, as he demonstrates during a circumnavigation of London by canal. Far from being a discarded relic of the early Industrial Revolution, the waterway is not only busy but a surprisingly good way of getting about.

The Big Idea BBC2, 11.15pm

It is eeghweek on BBC2, though some viewers might prefer to wait until bedtime for intelligent conversation. To the revival of *The Brains Trust* in this slot on Mondays is added a new run of the series in which leading thinkers are questioned by the journalist Andrew Marr. The first subject is the sprightly, 67-year-old Professor J.K. Galbraith, who continues to prove that you can be a communist and a capitalist. Unflinchingly, he argues that governments should intervene in the economy to help the deprived and promote a just social order. In a typically bold aphorism, he maintains that a progressive income tax is one of the great civilising influences of our time. Peter Waymark

VideoPlay and the Video Film Classics

The numbers add to each TV programme taking the Video Play Classics, which allow you to programme your video recorder to watch a Video Play. The numbers add to each TV programme taking the Video Play Classics, which allow you to programme your video recorder to watch a Video Play. The numbers add to each TV programme taking the Video Play Classics, which allow you to programme your video recorder to watch a Video Play.

CARTLON

- 6.00am GMTV (2933584)
9.25am Love or Lose (s) (4486478)
9.55am London Tonight (Teletext) (6352720)
10.00pm The Time... The Place (s) (1206316)
10.35pm This Morning (57374126) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (6418565)
12.30pm ITN News (Teletext) (6885687)
12.55pm Home and Away (Teletext) (6707478) 1.25pm Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (32159923) 1.55pm Shortland Street (54412923)
2.20pm Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (18125671) 2.50pm Material World: Death of a Salesman. Last in the series (4859497)
3.20pm ITN News headlines (2304671) 3.25pm London Today (Teletext) (2303942)
3.30pm Potamus Park (s) (2207229) 3.40pm Wizardia (s) (s) (718652) 3.50pm The Twisted Tale of Felix the Cat (1186300) 4.10pm Terror Towers (Teletext) (s) (5696045) 4.40pm Delta Wave: A Twist of Lemming. (Teletext) (s) (7912403)
5.10pm After 5 with Caron Keating. Followed by The Missing File (6262632)
5.40pm ITN News and weather (Teletext) (172403)
5.55pm Your Show. Viewers air their views (97720)
6.00pm Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (687)
6.30pm London Tonight (Teletext) (688)
7.00pm Wish You Were Here...? Judith Chalmers travels through Guatemala on her way to the Mexican beach of Cancun. Plus Palma, Mallorca, and the highlands and islands of Argyll. (Teletext) (5497)
7.30pm Coronation Street. Jack gets grief for fraternising with the enemy and news of Alan and Denise's comeback begins to filter through to the neighbours. (Teletext) (923)
8.00pm The Match Live: Coca-Cola Cup Quarter-Final Arsenal v Newcastle United. Bob Wilson introduces coverage from Highbury as Arsenal take on Newcastle United. Commentary by Brian Moore and Ron Atkinson. (8403)
10.00pm ITN News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (32145)
10.30pm London Tonight and weather (Teletext) (585749)
10.40pm FILM: Rent-A-Cop (1987) starring Burt Reynolds as a disgraced Chicago policeman and Liza Minnelli as a prostitute. Frank Church (Reynolds) is suspended from the force for negligence after his car is gunned down in a botched drug operation. He takes a job as a private detective in a department store but late reunites him with two of the key figures from the night of the bloodbath. Directed by Jerry London (9182949)
12.30am Profile of Nick Hayward (s) (5212879)
12.40pm Gilt (7765332)
1.40pm Dear Nick (4830072)
2.40pm The Good Sex Guide... Life (s) (7526782)
3.35pm Jones and Jerry: The Rabid Reader (6806546)
4.00pm Late & Loud (s) (s) (2617817)
4.55pm The Time... The Place (s) (s) (1785695)
5.30pm ITN Morning News (19430)

SATELLITE

- Best of Galaxia (2421140) 2.00pm-4.00pm
FILM: Fievel (953430)
5.00pm Panting (8670132) 5.30pm Grow with Me (715484) 10.00pm Two's Company (754955) 10.30pm Our House (787616)
11.00pm The Fawcett House (518707) 11.30pm Running Partners (518126) 12.00pm Julia Child (674768) 12.30pm The Frugal Gourmet (7185200) 1.00pm Van Cliburn (520652)
1.30pm Local Heroes (157671) 2.00pm Dogs With Wings (699109) 2.30pm Gardens of the World (699109) 3.00pm The World (216774)
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WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10 1996

South Africa win first one-day international

England reveal old limitations

FROM SIMON WILDE IN CAPE TOWN

CAPE TOWN (South Africa won toss): South Africa beat England by six runs

ENGLAND'S batting collapsed for the third time in nine days to hand South Africa victory in the first one-day international at Newlands last night. Chasing 212 to win, they were cruising at 155 for three in the 37th over with Fairbrother and Thorpe, the left-handers, going well but the return to the attack of Shaun Pollock, the man of the match by some distance, set a flurry of wickets falling and put England up against the clock.

Fairbrother, having put on 61 for the fourth wicket with Thorpe, holed out to mid-on and White and Reeve both failed to live up to their status as all-rounders. Thorpe, having batted as well as at any time on the tour, was left stranded with the tail.

Thorpe fell in the 48th over, when he skied a ball from McMillan to mid-wicket, where Matthews took a fine running catch. In the final over, Gough was bowled by Pollock, who finished with four wickets to add to his 66 runs.

It was South Africa's first victory in five limited-overs internationals with England and they will look back and wonder how they did it. Until the collapse, they had not been in the match.

It had been a disciplined all-round performance by England, marred only by the last 80 minutes of the South Africa innings, when they again allowed tailenders — even if Pollock may soon outgrow

that description — to dictate terms to them, just as they did in the closing stages of the Western Province match and when Adams and Richardson turned round the last Test match.

South Africa's early batsmen, though, were generous in the extreme. They gave away five of the first six wickets, four of which went to catches at the wicket by Stewart, who thus equalled the England limited-overs record. The early parts played by Cork and Martin, however, should not be underestimated. They swung the ball consistently and created all sorts of problems.

South Africa's strategy to promote Richardson and McMillan in the order failed. With Kirsten leg-before to an inswinger from Cork, McMillan was at the wicket in the third over and out by the sixth, while Richardson was out in the eleventh, unfathomably

chasing a wide ball from Martin. Richardson hit over the ring of fielders only twice and Rhodes had to assume the role of aggressor, but the task was beyond him, too.

The dismissal of Cronje, who with Kallis pulled things round from the depths of 77 for five, was full of irony. Cronje had been instrumental — if unlawfully so — in the run out of Thorpe last week and the roles were now reversed. A fine stop on the boundary and throw by Thorpe caught Cronje out of his ground, looking for a third run, which Kallis saw was not for the taking.

Kallis continued to play maturely and for the first time for South Africa lived up to the glowing testimonies he has inspired. Pollock was no less impressive and this pair, with a combined age of just 42 and both playing their first limited-overs internationals, added 45 in 11 overs.

White's return in the 42nd

over could have brought them further riches but the extra bounce he extracts undid Kallis, who skied a catch to deep mid-wicket. But with Matthews ably holding up an end, Pollock magnificently cut loose and the last five overs of the innings reaped 49 runs and spoilt Cork's figures in the process.

Pollock's share was 36 and raised his score to 66 at a run a ball. His stand of 59 with Matthews was an eighth-wicket record for South Africa in these matches and on the evidence of recent weeks he will be a wonderful acquisition for Warwickshire.

Atherton and Stewart, who put on 59 for England's first wicket, enjoyed no little luck before Donald came on as first change and played his first part of the day. In his opening over, he found Atherton's outside edge and McMillan — who had earlier engaged in another spat with Cork — claimed a catch at slip, but the infamous umpire Orchard conferred with his colleague, Leibenberg, and ruled that the ball had touched the ground. Donald's next ball was so fast it not only took Atherton's edge again but beat Richardson's flailing glove as well.

Donald had his revenge. In his next over Stewart, who had been his jittery self, was leg-before and in his third a superb outswinger plucked out Atherton's off stump. Hick was at the crease only briefly before he, too, fell to Donald, but he nevertheless played a large part in Adams's swift removal from the attack.

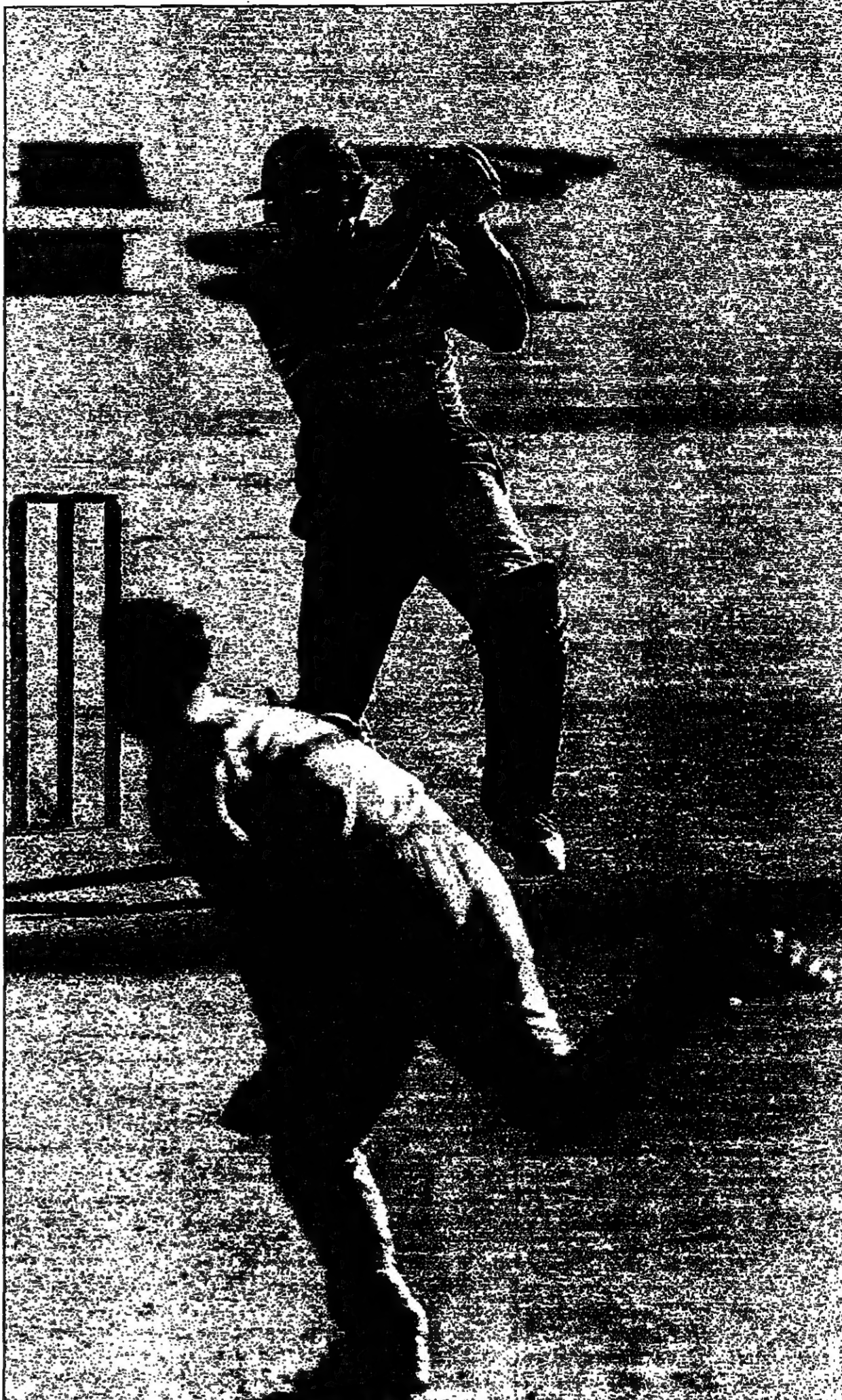
□ Sri Lanka revived their hopes of reaching the final of the World Series Cup final with a three-wicket victory over Australia before a crowd of 60,000 at Melbourne yesterday. After holding Australia to 213 for five in their 50 overs, Sri Lanka scored 214 for seven in 47.3 overs, wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwitharana justifying his promotion to opener with a sparkling 77 from 79 balls. A partnership of 159 for Australia between Ricky Ponting and Michael Bevan was a record for the fifth wicket in limited-overs internationals.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA	
G Kirsten lbw b Cork	8
10 J Richardson c Stewart	11
B N McMillan c Stewart b Martin	4
D J Cullinan c Stewart b Reeve	17
J N Rhodes c Stewart b White	16
W J Cronje run out	24
J H Kallis c Thorpe b White	38
S M Pollock not out	66
C R Matthews c Reeve b Cork	10
Extras (p 1, lb 6, w 4, nb 6)	17
Total (8 wks, 50 overs)	211
A A Donald and P R Adams did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-20, 3-44, 4-57, 5-77, 6-107, 7-152, 8-211.	
BOWLING: Cork 10-0-51-2; Martin 10-1-34-2; Gough 9-0-39-0; Reeve 9-1-40-1; White 10-1-31-2; Smith 2-0-9-0.	

ENGLAND	
M A Atherton b Donald	35
I A J Stewart lbw b Donald	23
G A Hick lbw b Donald	21
G P Thorpe c Matthews	62
b McMillan	62
N H Fairbrother c Adams	2
b Pollock	2
C White c b Pollock	5
D A Reeve c Richardson	2
b Matthews	2
D G Cork run out	7
N M K Smith c McMillan b Pollock	3
D Gough b Pollock	0
P J Martin not out	4
Total	205
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-59, 2-64, 3-95, 4-155, 5-161, 6-166, 7-177, 8-188, 9-199.	
Umpires: D L Orchard and C Leibenberg	

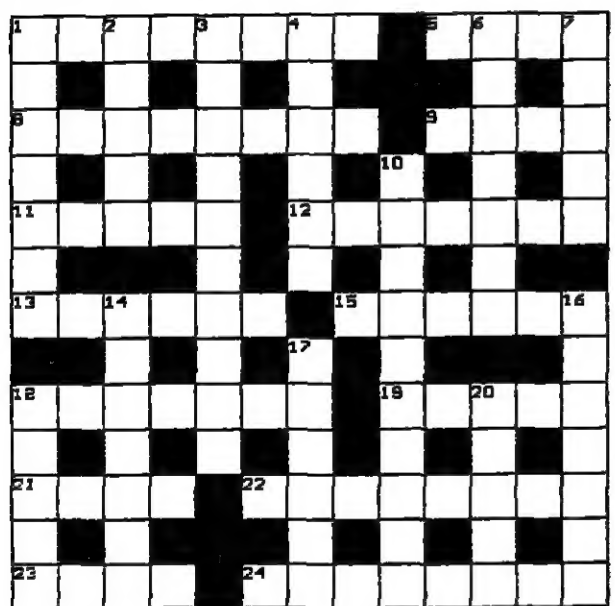
Gough's mastery, page 44



Pollock crashes a delivery from Gough through the off side during his innings of 66 for South Africa yesterday

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 674



- ACROSS
- Make less intense, severe (8)
 - The balance of probability (5)
 - One marooned (8)
 - Stopper: bribe (slang) (4)
 - Poem of lament (5)
 - Spotty childhood disease (7)
 - Risk, danger (6)
 - Charged nuclear particle (6)
 - Egotistic (7)
 - Punctuation mark; part of body (5)
 - Animal's den (4)
 - Relaxed; without ceremony (8)
 - By mouth (4)
- DOWN
- The Scottish play (7)
 - Brief sample; a liking (5)
 - Easy-money source (5,5)
 - Severe shock (6)
 - Similar pair: old jacket (7)
 - Wise men (5)
 - Acting on whim (10)
 - Dobson (Beebeem) (7)
 - To put at a loss (7)
 - Complain fretfully (6)
 - Valley of fire (5)
 - Low dance under bar (5)

SOLUTION TO No 673
ACROSS: 1 Down tools 6 Pod 8 Candide 9 Extol 10 Mail 11 Pleasure 13 Luther 14 Bizarro 17 She-devil 18 Agree 20 Rooms 21 Toccata 22 GBH 23 Dispersal
DOWN: 1 Decimal 2 Winnie-the-Pooh 3 Trim 4 Openly 5 Scenario 6 Put out to grass 7 Delve 12 Reversed 15 Overall 16 Hiccup 17 Shrug 19 Ace

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD No 669
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Battleship 9 Thunder 10 Purple 11 Alms 12 Visceral 14 Thread 15 Lancelot 16 Aladdin's 20 Cave 22 Known 23 Violent 24 Tolerantly
DOWN: 2 Aide 3 Turbid 4 Especial 5 Hairy 6 Post Laureate 7 Sirajack 8 Murrin 13 Pardoner 16 Diadem 17 Uneven 19 Auld 21 Sail

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network: V B Mason, Aylesbury, Bucks.
2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network: K M Pincott, Sneyd Park, Bristol

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD No 668
1st PRIZE in Times Two Crossword No 668 was won by E. Balasquez, South Woodford, London. 2nd PRIZE was won by S A Plunk, Alresford, Hampshire.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD No 663
1st PRIZE in Times Two Crossword No 663 was won by M Clark, Dundee. 2nd PRIZE was won by Mr Andrews, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey.

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Anderton relieves Venables burden

BY DAVID MADDOCK

TERRY VENABLES may not have had much to smile about today when the decidedly unenthusiastic response of some members of the Football Association's international committee to his promptings for a new contract, but some of the gloom afflicting the England manager was lifted yesterday when Darren Anderton returned to training.

Anderton, the one unqualified success of the Venables tenancy, has not played for his country since last summer, when he provided the little

that he could be back in action by the end of this month. That would allow Venables the opportunity of recalling him to the England squad for the international against Bulgaria on March 27.

"I feel there is light at the end of the tunnel," Anderton said. "I am getting used to kicking a ball and running at full pace. I'm wary of the injury, but I hope to play in a game of some sort in the next three weeks or so."

"I expect to play a reserve-team game first, and take it slowly. Terry Venables has spoken to me and he has said to use my head and take my time. But I feel much happier now that I am able to kick a ball again."

Anderton would offer Venables valuable options both in midfield and on the wing as he prepares his squad for the task of hosting the championship.

Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, believes that the player could soon be ready to make an international impact once more. "It is nice to see a smile on Darren's face," he said. "He has worked with the ball for the first time in a while, and we are very happy with his progress."

□ Marc Hotmeyer will this morning join Everton, from Newcastle United, for a fee of £700,000. The 27-year-old Switzerland international defender must wait for a new work permit to be issued before appearing for his new club. West Ham United have accepted a £1.2 million offer from Sheffield United for Don Hutchison. The midfield player will make a decision this morning.



Anderton: in training

optimism that came out of the Umbro Cup. This season he has managed just four games for his club, Tottenham Hotspur, after a hernia operation in the summer and subsequent surgery on a groin injury.

There has been concern that the player, widely seen as important to England's chance of success in the European Championship finals, had suffered a more serious injury than was first thought. Anderton allayed any fears yesterday when he explained

Orient defender fails drug test

BY JOHN GOODBODY

FOOTBALL suffered another blow to its reputation yesterday when a Leyton Orient defender was found positive for cocaine after a Football League game at Barnet on November 25.

Roger Stanislaus, 27, is the first English player to have been found positive for a performance-enhancing substance after a professional match and he now faces being banned from the game.

He has asked the Football Association (FA) for a personal hearing but can still represent the Endsleigh Insurance League third division club until the case is heard. However, Orient may decide to "rest" the player.

Barry Hearn, the Orient chairman, said: "The issue for us is what our attitude is while we wait for the FA hearing. Obviously, we are a family club and we have to take that into account. I will be discussing the matter with our manager, Pat Holland. Hopefully, in the next few days, we will know what is what."

Last season, eight professional players were found to have used marijuana. Two more had taken amphetamines, although one of them turned out to be the victim of a spiked drink. Most serious of all, Paul Merson, the England and Arsenal forward, admitted that he had used cocaine.

This drug may be commonly used for recreational purposes but it can also improve a player's performance. The analysis was carried out at the Chelsea laboratory accredited by the International Olympic Committee at King's College, London University. Its director, Dr David Cowan, said:

"There is no question that cocaine improves alertness. It can sustain stamina and endurance. It might also help a player through the pain barrier."

It is understood that Stanislaus must have taken this particular drug within three days of giving the sample for traces to have been revealed in the analysis.

Last May, the FA launched a campaign to dissuade youngsters from taking drugs. Leaflets and a video are being shown to 15,000 players at 146



Stanislaus facing ban

centres of excellence this season. Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, described the campaign as "one of the most important with which the FA has ever been involved", although he pointed out that drug-taking "permeates the whole of society and football is not immune".

The FA has also increased the number of tests, particularly out of competition. This season, 280 will be carried out.

Recall for Chapman, page 44
Gunn's target, page 44

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